The National
Future Farmer

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October–November, 1986

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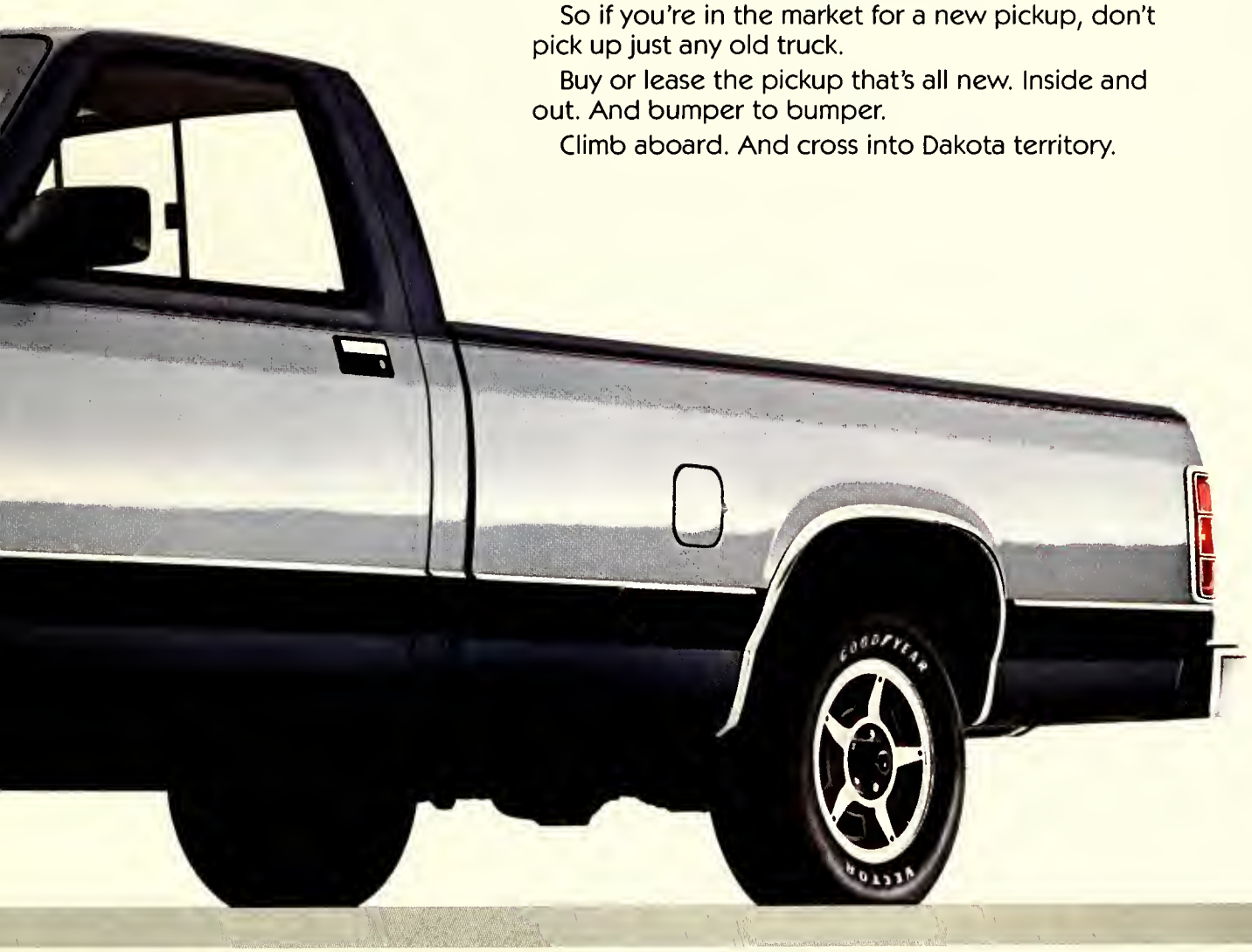

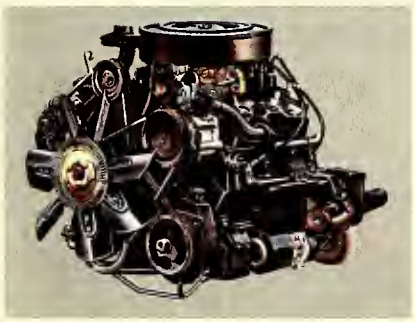

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October-November, 1986
Volume 35 Number 1 ISSN 0027-9315

A Word With The Editor

Changes expected in the workplace between now and the year 2000 will have a major impact on the lives of today's FFA members. In order to plan your future, you need to know what economists are predicting.

The National Alliance of Business, a business-led non-profit corporation located in Washington, D.C., has just published a paper, "Employment Policies: Looking to the Year 2000." Some of the points they make are worthy of your serious consideration.

- The number of youth entering the work force will decline between now and 1995.
- The number of high school dropouts will increase. One of every four ninth graders will not graduate from high school.
- An estimated 1.5 million workers are already permanently displaced, their skills obsolete due to continuing shift from manufacturing to high technology and service industries and to international competition.
- Young workers seeking entry level jobs will face more intense competition for fewer unskilled and semi-skilled jobs.
- By 1990, an estimated three out of four jobs will require some education or technical training beyond high school.
- Training and retraining must be viewed as a lifelong process.
- Employers will find it difficult to fill entry level jobs with qualified applicants. At the same time, a large segment of our population, mostly the unmotivated and under educated, will be left out, unable to obtain work. The effects to society will be increases in welfare, crime and unrest.
- School systems must stress basic reading, writing and arithmetic and the development of problem solving, communicating, and teamwork skills. Moreover, they must develop programs that encourage youth to stay in school.

How do you fit into the above situation? You may want to ask your teacher to hold a class discussion on some of these points.

Wilson Carnes

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The Cover: *Cover Photo by Sadenya Smith*

Denise Smith, 1985 southern region dairy proficiency winner, leads one of her world-class Jersey cows at her family's Bama Jersey Farms in Arab, Alabama. Her story, "For the Love of Jerseys," is on page 14.

By the way, the cover photo was taken by Denise's mother, Sadenya. The editors of *The National FUTURE FARMER* applaud her photographic skills.

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Limousin

The FFA News in Brief

Agri-Science Teacher Selection

Applications for the new Agri-Science Teacher of the Year award have been sent to 577 agriculture teachers across the country. The tentative date for selecting the state and regional finalists is October 15 at the National FFA Center. The national winner and runners-up will be announced at national convention in November. The award is sponsored by Stauffer Agricultural Products Division of Chesebrough-Pond's Inc., through the National FFA Foundation.

Swine Winners Tour Pfizer Headquarters

Three regional swine proficiency winners and their advisors participated in a tour of Pfizer, Inc. corporate headquarters in New York City, August 26-28. Clint Oliver, southern region winner, Lyle Blakely, western region winner, and Kevin Gardner, central region and national winner, attended an educational session examining the agriculture industry's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Besides the tour, the winners were also treated to the Broadway play "Big River," all through the sponsorship of Pfizer.

FFA Board of Directors Summary

Decisions that affect every FFA member were debated and voted upon during the National FFA Board of Directors July meeting at the National FFA Center July 28-31. Here are some of the highlights of the board's decisions.

- An amendment to the National FFA Constitution that would remove restriction on the number of State Farmer degrees awarded by a state will be forwarded to the delegates at the upcoming national convention. The amendment was submitted by the Arizona state association.
- A special committee to study how agrimarketing could be more emphasized in the FFA was approved. The committee will report to the Board in January pending foundation sponsorship. A task force to study the addition, deletion, evaluation and reorganization of national FFA contests was also approved.
- A year-round High School Exchange Program was approved by the Board for operation through FFA's International department. FFA will submit a proposal to the U.S. Information Agency for FFA to be included in the "Congress-Bundestag" program with West Germany. Vocational agriculture classes and FFA activities will be included in the reciprocal exchange.

BRIDGE Connects FFA Outreach

Suddenly trapped in a wheel chair, how will you fight rural isolation in overcoming your disability? Spotlighting the unique needs of the 590,000 rural handicapped, National Day of Outreach to the Rural Disabled (Saturday, October 4) is part of a new FFA scholarship program.

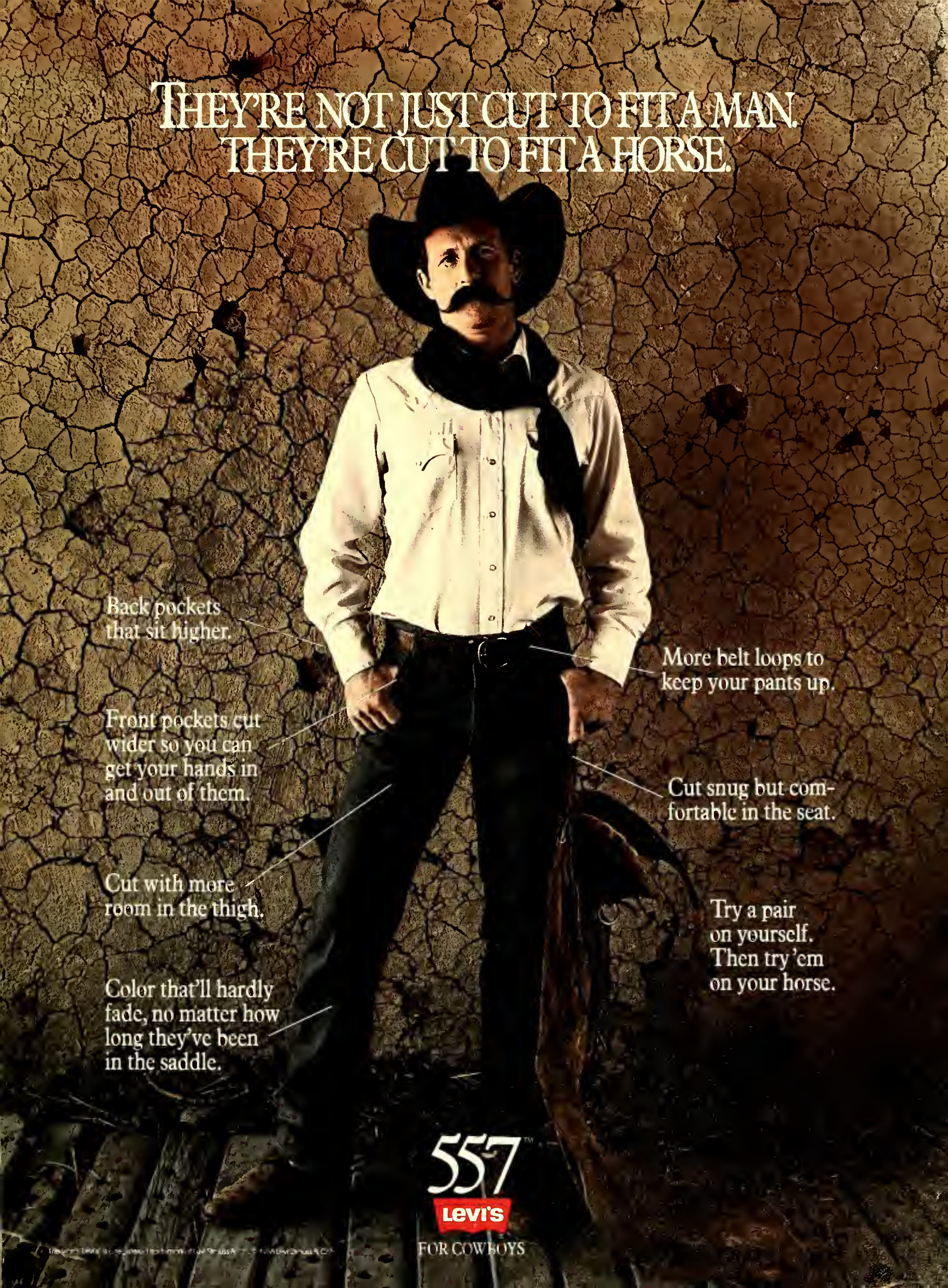
BRIDGE (Building Rural Initiative for Disabled through Group Effort) will offer a scholarship to an outstanding FFA member overcoming a physical handicap, with an award being planned for the FFA chapter most effectively reaching out to the rural handicapped. Legislation for National Day of Outreach to the Rural Disabled was presented to the Senate on August 15; passage by House and Senate is expected by September 30.

Chevy Presents FFA With Pick-up

Rick Malir, national FFA president, receives the keys to the first "FFA Blue and Gold" S-10, long-bed Chevy pick-up truck from John Kelly, marketing manager for Chevrolet Trucks, during FFA's State Presidents' Conference. The pick-up truck will be used by the maintenance department at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Anyone may order the truck with the custom-designed paint package of dark blue with gold side-striping and an official FFA emblem on each side. Chevrolet sponsors the State Presidents' Conference.

Japanese Exchange

Eighteen students and two advisors from the Future Farmers of Japan (FFJ) were hosted by the Rockingham, Virginia, FFA Federation from July 27 to August 11. The Japanese students stayed in the homes of FFA members and were taken on tours of swine, poultry and dairy farms during their study tour of the U.S.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Looking Ahead

No Room At The Bin

Thousands of farmers, elevator operators and government officials are scrambling to find storage for what may be the biggest grain glut in U.S. history. They're tapping such unusual places as riverbarges, railroad cars, hog houses, barns and machine sheds to store, among other crops, the estimated 8.32 billion bushels of corn and 1.98 billion bushels of soybeans expected to be harvested this fall (USDA figures). This bounty comes after last year's record-setting yields, a good portion of which is still being held in anticipation of higher selling prices.

For those looking for a silver lining in this thunderstorm of grain, ask the storage-building dealers and elevator operators how business is going.

Wheat Poll Results

A majority of farmers responding to a national wheat referendum (poll) favor establishing mandatory production controls in order to raise prices, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A heated dispute broke out almost instantly over the poll's meaning. The Reagan administration, noting that most farmers who received ballots did not bother to vote (about 88 percent), said it proved farmers are largely indifferent or opposed to mandatory controls. Advocates of production controls termed the result "a landslide" and said it showed farmers are dissatisfied with the course of current farm policy.

About 54 percent of the wheat farmers who participated in the poll said they favor production controls, while 46 percent opposed the idea, according to USDA figures.

Weyerhaeuser Plants Two Billionth Tree

In late June, at a tree farm site adjacent to the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Washington, Weyerhaeuser planted a commemorative seedling symbolizing the two-billionth tree planted under the company's 20-year High Yield Forestry Program. High yield forestry is a system of intensive forest management designed to produce the highest yields of wood at the lowest cost in the shortest time.

The 1986 planting season also marked the completion of Weyerhaeuser's six-year effort to replant over 17 million seedlings on more than 43,000 acres following the destruction caused by the volcanic explosion of Mt. St. Helens on May 18, 1980. Weyerhaeuser's reforestation project at its St. Helens Tree Farm is the only program of its kind ever carried out in a volcanic blast zone.

Taking The Pulse of Plants In Space

Reaction of living plants to the physical stresses of space flight can be tested in an experiment devised by scientists at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research in New York.

When space shuttle flights resume, the experiment may answer the question: Are the conditions of weightlessness, lift-off, and re-entry as troublesome to plants as earthly stresses like air pollution, drought, and salty water?

Designed by environmental biology research specialists John J. Chiment and Scott H. Wettlaufer at Cornell University, the experiment can measure levels of a stress-indicator chemical called glutathione during various stages of space flight. "Glutathione is a compound that plants produce to overcome stress such as air pollution, too much salt, or too little water," explains Chiment. "Measuring glutathione levels is like taking the pulse of a plant."

Because experiments are loaded on the space shuttle two months in advance and may not come off until a month after landing, the experiment must be self-contained, automatic and able to start from seeds and dry soil.

Another Boyce Thompson scientist, Carl Leopold, may add corn seeds to the canister to study the direction of root growth in zero gravity. At the urging of Chiment's brother, a school principal, *high school students* may become involved in designing that experiment.

Fighting Fire with Fire

A new device that drops flaming spheres the size of ping pong balls from a low-flying helicopter is helping the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service to fight fire with fire.

Recent tests of a "plastic sphere dispenser" conducted on the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana and the Apalachicola National Forest in Florida, show the new system is much more effective and faster than the traditional method of lighting prescribed fires with a hand-held torch. "The use of the plastic spheres is really a unique approach," said Jim Lunsford of the Forest Service Aviation and Fire staff in Atlanta, Georgia. "Each sphere contains three grams of potassium permanganate and are automatically injected with ordinary antifreeze as they leave the aircraft. They ignite shortly after reaching the ground, making them perfect for burning debris on the forest floor."

Lazy Hogs More Tender

A study conducted by University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station animal scientists indicates that the main commercial effect of exercise for swine is tougher meat.

The study was designed to determine if swine would benefit from a training program to increase muscular strength, according to Dr. Paul K. Lewis, UA professor of animal sciences. One group was walked one mile each day, another group had feed and water containers located 16 feet apart as an incentive to exercise, and the control group was confined in area similar to commercial production conditions.

Carcasses of the exercised animals were longer and leaner, with less backfat, but the loin eye muscle was less tender than in the unexercised group, Lewis said. There was no effect of exercise on feed efficiency, average daily gain or yield of wholesale cuts.

The Mailbag

Response to Hunting Dogs

I am writing a response to the article "Bringing Back the Wildlife" in the August-September issue. I hope that Stanley will continue most of his wildlife projects, especially with the wild turkeys.

However, I disagree with one thing. The statement that "hunters using dogs who run deer to exhaustion," is misleading.

Dogs give the deer a more sporting chance of living than still hunting or other methods. When dogs are used, the deer know that danger is near and are on the lookout for hunters or other signs of danger in the woods. Dogs also help aid the hunters in finding wounded deer.

Patrick Roberson
Pikeville, Tennessee

College and Vo-Ag? Yes

I applaud the article "College and Vo-Ag—Can You Have Both?" in the August-September issue.

At Wilmington College of Ohio, all of the agriculture faculty are abreast of admissions requirements and request committee assignments on the various policy-making committees. As a consequence, our entrance requirements have eluded selective high school course requirements for entrance, but emphasize academic performance.

Monte R. Anderson
Chairman, Agriculture Department
Wilmington College of Ohio

As a former FFA member, I combined collegiate and vo-ag courses. In essence, I made up my own curriculum.

Without the FFA I wouldn't know as much as I know now. I learned how to use several different computer programs, how to prepare and give speeches, basic accounting—things that would normally take up other classes.

I enlisted in the Marine Corps and the FFA brought out leadership qualities and confidence in me I didn't know I had.

Susan D. North
Mahaffey, Pennslyvania

People Still Care

I would like to express my pride in the people who are willing to help the drought-stricken farmers. It really makes me proud to think that people still care and are trying to keep the future of agriculture alive.

Tina Drummond
Elkins, Arkansas

Northeast Thanks

Thank you for your support as I have been contributing to the magazine. It gives me a boost as well as the New Jersey state FFA office and officers.

Lynette Brubaker
New Jersey State Department of Education
Trenton, New Jersey

Keeping in Touch

I really like the magazine. I have found it to be great way to keep in touch with other chapters, especially during these busy, long hot summer days.

John Jefferson, III
Dawson, Texas

Chapter Makes History

In the August-September issue you published a "Scoop" item from our chapter. Thanks to you the Strother FFA Chapter made history. It was the first time any news from our chapter was ever published in *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. You made our day.

Anissa Storie
Seminole, Oklahoma

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to: MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

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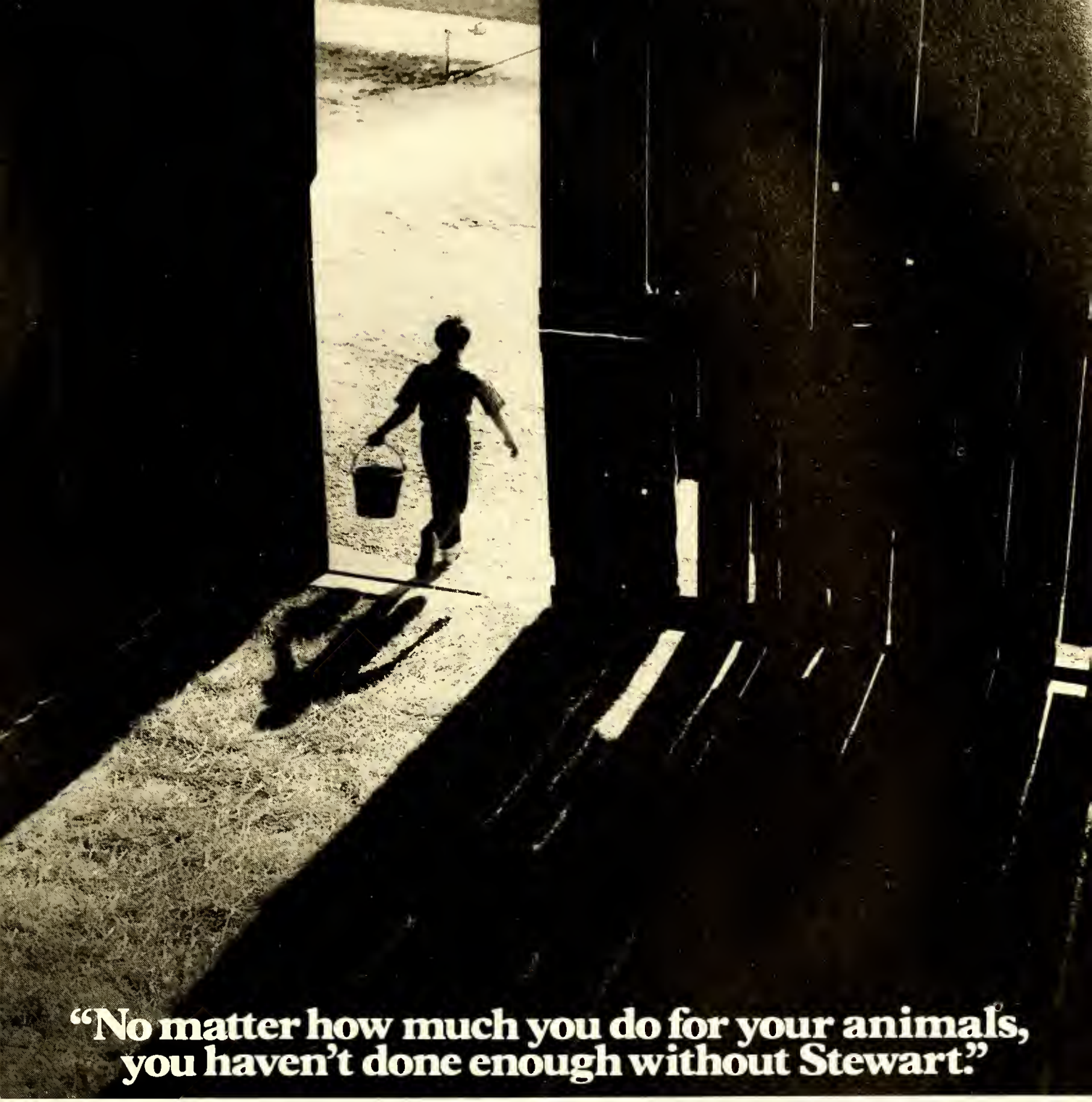

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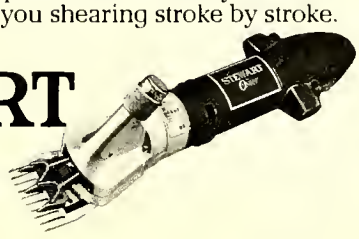

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Presidents, advisors, executive secretaries, and other officers from each state association gathered in Washington to prepare for the upcoming year and accept their roles as innovative leaders.

FFA State Leaders Meet in Washington

President Reagan is awarded with the FFA Blue and Gold plaque by Rick Malir, national FFA president, after speaking to the state presidents. Below, the President welcomes Washington Conference participants and state leaders to the Old Executive Office Building. Above, Susan Forte, vocational agriculture instructor and Teacher In Space finalist, spoke to the state presidents about their role in agriculture's space age future during a cookout sponsored by the FFA Alumni.

"Innovators By Choice," was the theme of the 1986 State Presidents' Conference held in Washington, D.C., July 21E25. The president and one other officer from each FFA state association, met together for five days to discuss the state of their states and the direction of the FFA organization.

At the same time, in some of the same rooms, another conference was held. State advisors and executive secretaries gathered for the National Workshop For State Leaders to share their ideas and concerns. Chevrolet paid for the travel expenses to bring the leaders to Washington.

The Presidents' Conference, sponsored by Chevrolet, was planned and run by the six FFA National Officers: Rick Malir, Coby Shorter, Cindy Blair, Robert Weaver, Kip Godwin and Kevin Coffman. Their goal, according to Kevin, was to mix information with motivation so the state officers would leave the conference in-the-know and ready to assume their duties with confidence.

Guest speakers at the conference reflected that mix. The officers heard remarks concerning agriculture and education from such policymakers as President Ronald Reagan, Senator Robert Dole (R-Kansas), Peter Meyers, deputy secretary of agriculture and Dr. Bruce Carnes, deputy undersecretary, Office of Planning, Budget and Evaluation, Department of Education.

Coffman: *"These are opinion formers. It was important for them to be exposed to each other's opinions. It gave them a national perspective."*

President Reagan spoke to two capacity crowds of state officers, state leaders and Washington Conference Program participants in the Old Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House. He told the FFA delegation that "...indeed, aid to farming has risen faster than defense spending," and credited recent agriculture woes to "embargoes during the last (Carter) administration; inflation; and now, in one part of our country, a great drought."

Motivational remarks were given by Jack Anderson, newspaper columnist and chairman of the board of the Young Astronaut Council; Fred McClure, special assistant to the President and former national FFA officer; Mamie McCullough, "The I CAN Lady," and Susan Forte, vocational agriculture instructor and Teacher In Space finalist. The officers witnessed a spectacular entrance by Ms. Forte when she emerged from a helicopter that landed in the parking lot of the National FFA Center during the Alumni Cookout Tuesday evening.

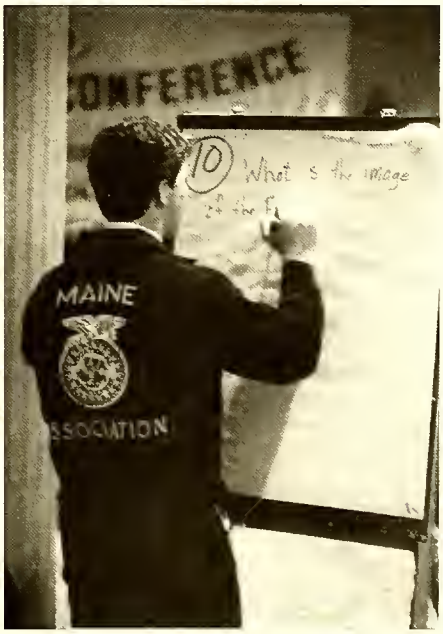
Brian Hicks, state president from Minnesota, makes a point during the "Issues and Answers" session with state advisors and executive secretaries.

Issues and Answers

The national officers selected the theme "Innovators By Choice," because, according to Kevin, "we wanted to show the state officers they could be a step ahead—initiating change—rather than being forced into change." There were many arenas during the week where the theme was put to the test.

The most lively exchange of views took place during the "Issues and Answers" workshop where the effectiveness of FFA's image, name and programs were debated. The officers also got the opportunity to discuss these topics with the state leaders in an open forum.

Brent Buck, state president from Maine, leads the discussion on FFA's image.



As the discussions between state officers became heated, and at times, emotional, some wondered why it was allowed to continue over the scheduled time—taking time away from other activities. "These are opinion formers," responded Kevin Coffman. "It was important for them to be exposed to *each other's* opinions. Certain states relate very differently to an issue depending on their location. It gave them a national perspective."

Meanwhile, the state leaders were learning about new computer age instructional materials and ways to work more effectively with their state legislators. They also heard how vocational agriculture is having to change to meet the needs of students in the '80s and the '90s and what they had to do to stay ahead—or catch-up.

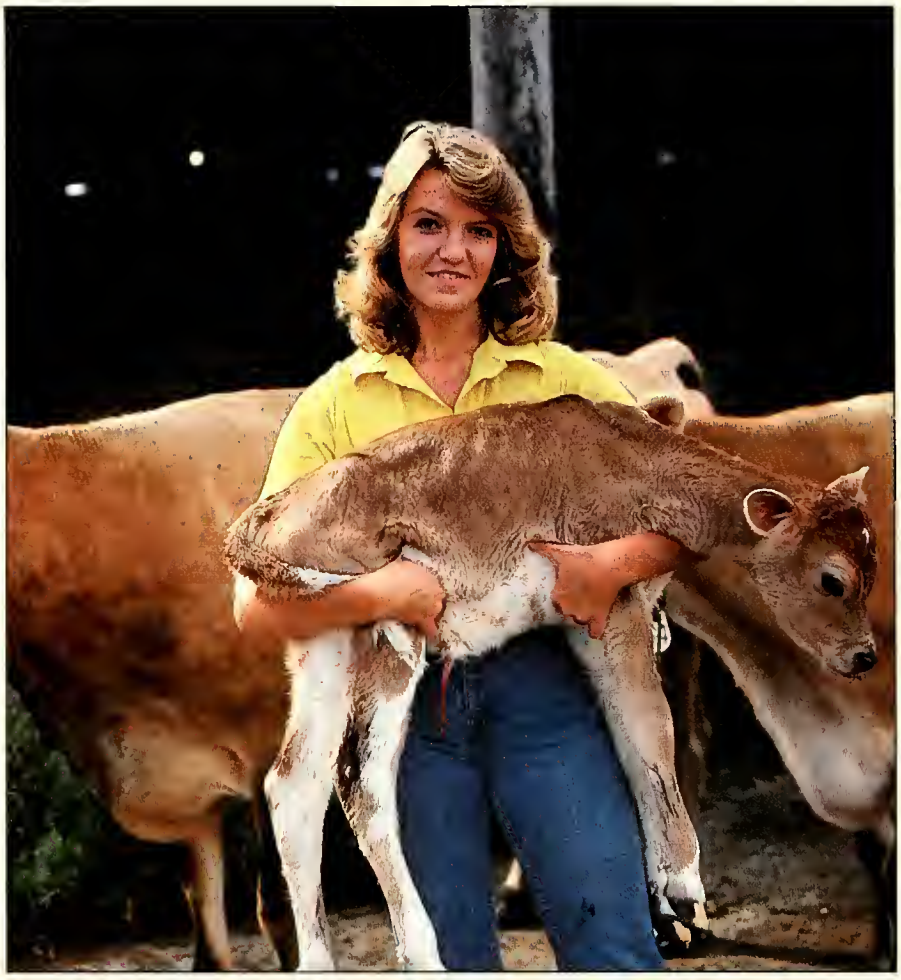
An Understanding

The week of July 21-25 was one of those rare occasions when people, who have much in common, could talk among each other about their ideas, their shortcomings and their hopes. The state presidents and leaders exchanged valuable ideas out of the meeting rooms—on buses, at dinner, in hotel lobbies, even in elevators. It was that informal communication that drew the participants together and made the conferences truly successful.

The state presidents, advisors and executive secretaries left Washington with a firm understanding of agriculture, education and each other. They had arrived with a desire to better vocational agriculture and the FFA in their state, and through a lot of listening and some valuable discussion, they left innovators by choice. •••

For the Love of Jerseys

FFA'er Denise Smith has many accomplishments to her name, but her first love will always be a show halter with a Jersey cow attached to the other end.



Photos by Sadenya Smith

NEVER mind the fact that Denise Smith has served as a state FFA officer, or that she earned the southern region FFA Dairy proficiency award last year. Or that this blond, blue-eyed, Alabaman has an exciting, challenging career in animal science ahead of her.

Those things are very nice, and important, and she's grateful. But her first love?

Just take another look at the cover of this magazine.

That's right. "Daddy was in the Jersey business before I was born," says 19-year-old Denise. "The Jerseys have been a part of my life ever since I can remember. I began showing when I was six years old. My first cow was a gift when I was small. I took the money I made from her and kept investing it back into the herd. It's built up quite a bit through the years."

Denise is the only child of Sadenya and Lavone Smith, who raised their daughter—as well as some of the finest registered Jersey cows in the world—at Bama Jersey Farms, near Arab, Alabama.

Denise is now a sophomore at Auburn University, where she attends collegiate FFA meetings and studies for an ambitious research career in ruminant nutrition and reproductive physiology. To fulfill that goal, she hopes to enter graduate school or the Auburn Veterinary school after she finishes her bachelor's degree.

"The Jerseys have been a part of my life ever since I can remember. I began showing when I was six years old."

But such an ambitious career goal doesn't mean Denise no longer gets her hands dirty. She owns 150 purebred Jerseys, half of which are milking in the family herd. She takes an active part in farm chores when she's home. Together with her father's cows the farm milks 170 head each day, so there's lots of work to be done. There are about 300 head at the farm altogether.

And along the way she's learned a lot about the dairy business: from advertising her herd at national shows, to analyzing a set of DHIA records. She's spent many nights on a tractor seat harvesting forage for the cattle, or penciling out a balanced ration at the kitchen table.

Denise's enthusiasm for the breed has helped her earn honor after honor in the livestock industry. Her animals routinely top the class at state and national livestock shows. And this summer Denise won the National Jersey Youth Achievement contest, one of the highest honors bestowed on someone involved in the Jersey breed. Judges picked her from among thousands of young people, based on community, youth organization, and Jersey breed activities.

The Best Jersey in the World

Because of the Smiths' commitment to quality and new breeding technology, their herd is consistently ranked among the finest in the world. Denise has the rather unusual distinction of owning the highest-ranked living Jersey cow in the world.

The cow, called "Empire Crusader Heidi," is Denise's pride and joy—and the Jersey that has brought more attention to the farm than any other. "What she wants, she gets," Denise laughs. She bought Heidi as a heifer in 1978.

"We took her to shows in 1979 and she was undefeated throughout the state," recalls Denise. "She got quite a bit of attention. We showed her at the national show and won reserve grand champion in the junior show, grand champion at the open show, and the 1979 Jersey Jug Futurity—one of the most prestigious

(Continued on Page 30)

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How can a 4-year-old FFA chapter, with an instructor fresh out of college, in an economically hard-hit Kansas community, be one of the top chapters in the state? They've got...

All The Right Stuff

By Andrew Markwart

FIVE years ago, the school board at Jackson Heights High School in Jackson County, Kansas, decided it was time to start an agriculture program.

Since the consolidation of four smaller schools in 1969, they had held-out for nine years to make sure there was enough money to get the program started right. The high school already had the right students, so the administration bought the right shop and classroom equipment,

Lynn Rundle's first year teaching was in a brand new vo-ag program.

and then they hired the right teacher, Lynn Rundle.

Hiring Mr. Rundle was a gamble. He was in the process of finishing his master's degree work in agricultural education at Kansas State University and had no FFA or classroom experience other than what he had acquired through student teaching. But the school board decided that a new teacher in a new program might be a good idea. It turned out to be a very good idea.

Jackson Heights was named the Outstanding Vocational Agriculture Program in Kansas for 1986 by the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association and ranked second in the state's FFA Triple Crown award, comprised of the safety, superior chapter, and Building Our American Communities (BOAC) programs.

The Plan

Although there was strong community support from the very beginning, the plan for the first few years was to get as much public exposure as possible to let everyone know about the FFA. "I decided that BOAC was the most important thing we did because that was really visible to the community—and they like to see us work," said Rundle.

An ongoing relationship with the local paper has also been vital in conveying the FFA story to the public. The chapter works with the paper "not just in telling about winning an FFA contest, but trying to explain the total program," says Rundle. "When we got the grant for seven computers, that was one thing that went in the paper."

The computers, appropriate software and related teaching materials were purchased through a $19,000 grant from the Carl Perkins fund which was available through the state office of vocational education. Mr. Rundle says the first step is to get all of the students keeping their SOEP records on computer. "That's going to *force* them to be on the computer, and it's also going to *allow* them to be on the computer. A lot of the students can't wait to get on it."

Changes

In four years, more has changed than just the addition of computers in the classroom. The program has been evolving to meet the students' current needs. Rundle explains that in a given class of 20 students from mainly farming backgrounds, ten will want to remain in production agriculture, when, in reality, three will probably return to the farm. As a result, classes have shifted focus from strictly production agriculture to more of a business emphasis.

One answer to the students' needs is the small engine business run by the senior ag mechanics class. The business provides the vital link between real experience and classroom learning, according to Rundle. "They actually do the repairs, the customer relations, the record keeping and billing. Where else are they going to get that in the school? They might learn how to keep track of a business in accounting, but will they do it?"

Alumni officers Bonnie Stauffer (left) and Lynn Rieschick raising money at a fair booth for their FFA Chapter.

Photos by Author

The classes are obviously popular with the students at Jackson Heights. Fifty students enrolled in agriculture classes the first year of the program. In 1983, that number climbed to 60 students, and to 70 the year after. Last year there were 74 students enrolled in agriculture at Jackson Heights out of a total high school enrollment of 170 students. An average of about 75 percent of the ag graduates have gone on to college, majoring heavily in agricultural economics.

A Justified Program

When you consider the agricultural economics of Jackson County, those ag enrollment numbers are especially impressive. "A lot of full-time farmers are now working in other jobs just to supplement their income," says Rundle. "The farm economy is tough. Most of the people in my alumni and advisory council are farmers and they're having a tough time making it." Then why do they continue to support a program that teaches agriculture? "Because they see the ag program teaching the students a lot more things than just farming."

Jackson Heights principal Jack Sheldon agrees. "The program acquaints the students with the entire ag industry. Students will not find it possible to stay home to farm, so I think it's the route to emphasize."

Trying to single out the one key ingredient in the success of Jackson Heights FFA will take you on a frustrating hunt. The advisor credits the students, school administration, an active FFA Alumni and the community. Everyone else credits the advisor, and he, in turn, insists that it was the other groups. Whatever the case may be, no one disputes the fact that the program works.

Advisor Lynn Rundle has no reservations in summing-up the situation at Jackson Heights. "I don't think there's a better place to teach in the state of Kansas, as far as community support, administrative support and students that compete. I told the school board when I was hired that it would take about three or four years to get the program on solid footing, because you're starting with kids that know nothing about vo-ag or FFA. I never dreamed we'd do what we've done." •••

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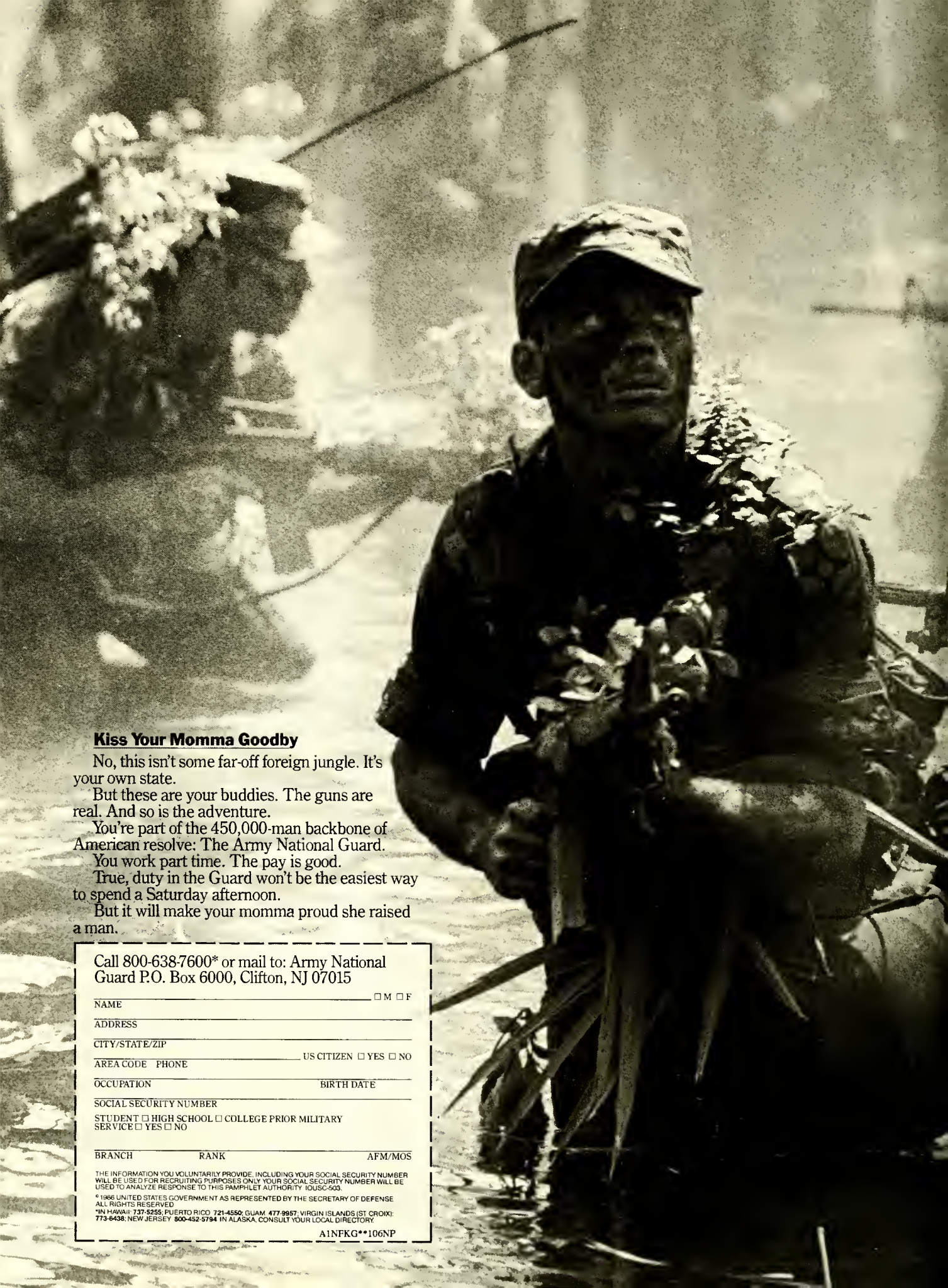

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Some of these winning FFA projects began with a student exploring the capabilities of a computer; others evolved from a real need on the farm and in the business. The reasons are different, but the results are the same: these FFA members are...

Excelling With Computers in Agriculture

By Rachel Vining

When the FFA members with the best agricultural computer projects in the nation met this summer, words like "interfacing", "laser printing" and "systems training" were as common as blue jackets and black shoes.

But these 40 state winners at the National FFA Computers in Agriculture Seminar in Washington, D.C., weren't out to impress anyone with their high-tech catch words. They were there to learn much more about the methods and technology that will help them help others apply computers to agriculture.

As Van Zander, the national FFA Computers in Agriculture winner, said, "Those of us who know about computers—instead of dazzling people with how much we know—we need to go out and help and use our knowledge to teach others how to put all this technology into practice."

Anita Golden, the Tennessee state winner, and her advisor Wade Breeding examine computerized FFA award applications at the Computers in Agriculture Seminar.

Sessions Open Eyes

During hands-on sessions students worked on cash flow charts, computerized FFA proficiency awards and American Farmer degree applications, agricultural class lessons and their own computer-generated seminar newsletter. The state winners, along with several advisors and even family members who attended the seminar, worked alone and as teams while they keyed in and printed out their computer know-how.

Thomas Ruchti, conference director, said the different sessions were designed to let students practice on different kinds of hardware and software so they would be more familiar with the technology available. "The seminar was all about sharing ideas and broadening the knowledge we have about the uses of computers."

Students rotated through sessions featuring Macintosh, Apple II, IBM and Tandy/Radio Shack computers. They sampled several different agricultural software programs that can be used as tools to help in the home or business—including the farm.

When Larry Case, national FFA advisor, addressed the group, he told the students to remember a computer is no more than a pencil—a tool to help you work more efficiently. "Because technology is changing so rapidly—it keeps creating new technology—things taught in FFA, such as cooperation and leadership, will always be needed to help us utilize these new tools."

Speakers, Tours and Much More

At the seminar, sponsored by Agri-Data Resources, Inc., students had a chance to meet their elected officials on Capitol Hill. During the congressional luncheon, Senator William Proxmire (D-Wisc.) spoke to the students about food and farm policy and the role of government in agriculture.

Other guests at the seminar included Thomas Tate of the United States Department of Agriculture who demonstrated the latest in interactive systems design. Tate showed the students how a computer that looks and sounds like a television can be used as an educational tool. The interactive system lets students see a live-action demonstration on the screen and then respond to a human voice that asks if they understand the lesson and are ready to move on, or it will ask if the student would like to go through the lesson again. The system uses a laser disk (which looks like a mirrored record album) that is coded with information and can be immediately retrieved through the computer system.

Last year's Computers in Agriculture winner Steve Cameron was this year's assistant conference director. Steve, a junior at Evergreen High School, Metamora, Ohio, demonstrated one of the ways he has applied computers—a self-designed, roboticized, artificial leg.

During the week, National FFA Officers Coby Shorter and Cindy Blair visited with students, hosted banquets and overcame early frustrations at the computers while they also learned how to use the technology at their keyboards.

The Winning Projects

Van Zander began tinkering with technology when he was in sixth grade and had the chance to "play" on his school's computer everyday. While he sat out of gym class because of mononucleosis, he began gathering the resources and information that would lead him to be named the 1986 national winner.

Van, of Topeka, Kansas, said most of his computer applications have used the ins and outs of interfacing. Interfacing means fusing the information processing capabilities of a computer with outside devices that either feed in or send out information.

For example, after a neighbor's barn had been broken into, Van designed a computer interfaced security system that would sense an intruder and automatically call the police. He explained different sensors in the barn could detect different disturbances. The temperature probe might send the signal there is a sudden drop in temperature—if a door was opened or a noise sensor could detect a crash, such as a window being broken. The high school senior teaches computer workshops and works at Thoroughbred Computers in Topeka.

Christopher Tompkins

Christopher Tompkins, at 16, has made quite a business for himself. Last year, the Computers in Agriculture second place winner earned more than $3,000 by marketing his computer expertise.

The Brandon, Florida, FFA member began his computer/word processing business in 1984 when he volunteered to learn how to operate the local Chamber of Commerce's new computer system.

For his own business, SOE records, FFA chapter and school projects, and volunteer community computer projects, Christopher uses his IBM Portable PC. He also uses the IBM PC AT, the Apple IIe system and the IBM Displaywriter. Christopher said being able to use the different systems—his own, the high school agriculture department's and the Chamber's two systems—have been a great help in learning to apply computers.

Christopher, of Riverview, Florida, has created his own library of computer materials and he has accumulated more than 60 software programs.

Michael Cole, vice president of AgriData Resources, Inc., left, congratulates the Computers in Agriculture winners Chris Leman, Christopher Tompkins, Van Zander, Patrick Settle and John Fritz with National FFA Advisor Larry Case. *Photos by Author*

Chris Leman

Three years ago Chris Leman of Roanoke, Illinois, put his family's swine preweaning analysis program on computer. Now Chris, the third-place FFA Computers in Agriculture winner, is thinking he'd like to try meshing artificial intelligence into his own veterinary practice, someday.

Chris has written an invoicing program for their swine breeding stock customers' records. It is a database from which Chris, his dad or brother can pull out any vital information about their customers. He also has computerized a sow health tracking system, an index analysis that rates boars and gilts, a least-cost feed ration program, a feed efficiency index, feed ration analysis, their farm's cash flow records and their test plot yields.

Their family uses the Leading Edge Model M-XT as a telecommunications tool to receive the latest swine information.

Chris uses the Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet program for his invoicing.

John Fritz

Like most of the Computers in Ag winners, John Fritz has made his computer work for him. With the extensive records from the family dairy farm, college classes at University of Wisconsin-Platteville, personal SOE records, and John's own programming projects, his Apple IIe must be busy.

The fourth place winner from Fennimore, Wisconsin, has computerized a database system for the family's dairy herd. He has identification records for calves, cows and sires coordinated with their birth dates. He also has breeding information filed by ID number, breeding dates, due dates, calving dates, sex of calf, and calf number.

After he graduates with a major in animal science and minors in computer science and chemistry, John plans to apply his computer expertise to a career in dairying.

For anyone, plans like John's would take work and dedication, especially if computer programming meant relying on a voice synthesizer. John is blind, but he won't tell you that. Not until after he explains his cow identification system and college plans.

A mirrored laser disk, coded with thousands of bits of information, reflects light while Thomas Tate explains its use. David Bierschbach (inset), South Dakota, takes a closer look at a laser disk used in a video-interfaced system.

Patrick Settle

When he was in fifth grade, Patrick Settle took his first computer course, and his Dorman, South Carolina, FFA chapter probably appreciates that he did. The high school junior and fifth place winner of the Computers in Ag Award, has converted the chapter records to word processing and spread sheets.

Patrick put the chapter's 45-page parliamentary procedure training manual into a word processing program to help the team train for contests. He modified farm management programs so they can be used as demonstration programs in vo-ag classes

Last spring Patrick applied his Zenith 100-PC to accounting by doing taxes for all his relatives. Now, with help from his Autocad digitizer tablet, he has gone into the graphics business for teachers and other students in his school. Patrick also makes up tests and has designed test grading systems with his computer. •••

National Convention Warm-Up

By Jack Pitzer

1986 National Convention Highlights

Wednesday, November 12

8 a.m.	Convention Registration
1:30-5 p.m.	National Career Show
7:30 p.m.	Vespers program

Thursday, November 13

7 a.m.	Livestock Contest
7:45 a.m.	Forestry Contest-Part I
8-8 p.m.	Registration
8-5 p.m.	National Career Show
8 a.m.	Farm Business Contest Nursery/Landscape Contest Floriculture Contest-Part I
9 a.m.	**Opening Session**-National Chapter Safety Awards, Speaker Jack Anderson
11 a.m.	Forestry Contest-Part II
12 noon	Dairy Contest, Proficiency Award Luncheon, Agricultural Mechanics Contest
1 p.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop, Meats Contest, Nursery/Landscape Contest-Part II
2 p.m.	**Second Session**-Speaker Susan Forte, Floriculture Contest-Part II, National Extemporaneous Speaking, National Chapter Awards, Distinguished Service Citations, Delegate Session
3 p.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop
6 p.m.	National Talent Show
8 p.m.	**Third Session**-Sponsors Recognition, Stars Over America

Friday, November 14

8-6 p.m.	Registration
8-4 p.m.	National Career Show
8:30 a.m.	Poultry Contest
9 a.m.	**Fourth Session**-Honorary American Farmers, VIP Awards, BOAC Awards, Speaker Bob Moawad
11 a.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop
1 p.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop
2 p.m.	**Fifth Session**-Speaker Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng, American Farmer degrees, Alumni Recognition, National Officer, Advisor and School Recognition
3 p.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop
5 p.m.	National Leadership Dinner for Chapter and State FFA Officers
6:45 p.m	FFA Band and Chorus Concert
8 p.m.	**Sixth Session**-National Proficiency Awards Pageant, National Prepared Public Speaking Contest

Saturday, November 15

7 a.m.	National Contests Breakfasts
8-12 noon	Registration
9 a.m.	**Seventh Session**-International Activities, Speaker Bruce Jenner, Announcement of Judging Contest Winners
2 p.m.	**Closing Session**-National President Retiring Address, Election and Installation of new National FFA Officers

JUST like the signs that winter is coming, there are many signs that National FFA Convention time is getting close.

New jacket orders are rolling in to the Supply Service. The engraving staff, even with their new computerized machines, have work stacked high to get awards ready. News releases are rolling off the presses and mountains of boxes are being packed to ship to the Municipal Auditorium.

Never mind the wintry weather of November, Kansas City will be the hot spot in the nation November 13-15, 1986, for the 59th national convention.

Speakers

Kickoff speaker for the convention will be Jack Anderson, popular columnist and chairman of the Young Astronaut program. Other speakers will be Susan Forte, a vo-ag instructor from Florida and finalist in the Teacher in Space program; Bob Moawad, motivational speaker, sponsored by ConAgra; Bruce Jenner, Olympic gold medalist, co-sponsored by Ford Division-Ford Motor Company and Ford Tractor Operations; and Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng.

Travel Plans

For all those making travel plans, check the schedule on this page. For your information, the final session of the convention on Saturday afternoon will end about 4:45 p.m. There will be no special entertainment after the session.

The only other change in the schedule will be to go back to the system of holding both of the public speaking contests during main convention sessions.

Eastern Airlines is offering the FFA and FFA Alumni an unrestricted fare of 65 percent of the normal round-trip coach fare within the continental U.S. Call (800) 468-7022 (in Florida (800) 282-0244) and refer to account number EZ11P27.

American Royal

The Americal Royal has brought back the rodeo events and scheduled them during FFA Convention week. They've lined up some great country entertainers too. (Your FFA editors have had a sneak preview of the lists and we promise you'll want to go.)

Shows will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. featuring rodeo events and different big name country entertainers each day.

Tickets will be $2-off for FFA members or anyone with proper FFA identification—$3 and $8 depending on the seating you choose. The tickets must be purchased at the American Royal ticket office on the show grounds in the Governor's building from 9 - 8:30.

Alumni Auction

The National FFA Alumni Association will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, November 12, and conclude with a banquet. After the meal, Steve Meredith, past national president of FFA from Kentucky, and Randy Myer, also an Alumni Council member, will operate the first Alumni auction.

Some examples of items on the "bill" so far include two round-trips on Eastern Airlines, anywhere in the U.S. and dinner for two at the Golden Ox.

The popular Alumni leadership workshops will be held again for FFA members. Speakers confirmed so far are past national officers Mark Herndon, Oklahoma; Nanci Mason, Mississippi and Jack Stewart, Wyoming.

Meal Functions

The organization will hold three meal functions available for members, advisors, or any guests who wish to buy tickets.

The first is the National FFA Alumni banquet Wednesday, November 12 at 5 p.m. in Room 213 of Bartle Hall. This meal is for all Alumni Convention attendees plus all other advisors, members, parents and guests who want to attend the Alumni auction.

The second is an American Farmer Luncheon, Friday at noon in the new Grand Hall of Bartle. Many American Farmers bring their families and local friends to the convention so here is a special meal function for all of them. Price is $10.

The third is a National FFA Leadership Dinner on Friday at 5 p.m. in the Grand Hall. Past National President Mark Sanborn from Ohio will be guest speaker. This meal function is also the event where past participants in the WCP leadership session can have reunions and get to see each other again. Price is also $10.

Checks payable to National FFA Organization may be sent to FFA Convention Meals, Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. Deadline is October 15. Tickets must be picked up in Bartle Hall lobby in Kansas City.

Career Show

Emphasis on information technology will be visible in the National Agricultural Career Show exhibits this year. Plans are set to include with the show a repeat of the popular Ag Ed Network training sessions.

A special attraction will be a "Classroom of the Future" set up and in operation during the week. It will have a teacher there conducting his vo-ag classes using computers and many other innovative educational tools.

Your chapter should jump in to the arena and get warmed up, too, about planning your national convention participation. Be sure the chapter delegates are set to record, photograph and participate in the convention. Take advantage of reduced airfares and get rooms. •••

"There's sure a lot more to running a farm these days. I hope my son is going to be up to it."

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David Marrison Fights Back

A bout with cancer left this Ohio state FFA officer only more determined to live life to its fullest.

By Mary Case

It was spring and 16-year-old David Marrison knew what that meant. As a "born farmer," he was aware of the work which had to be done. But this spring was different.

Just when everything was beginning on the family's farm, just when he was busy maintaining his perfect grade average at school, just when he was trying to decide about running for a state FFA office—he'd gotten sick. The doctor's diagnosis was a long one, "non-Hodgkin's lymphoma," but David knew that in one word it spelled "cancer."

Cancer—it brings to mind many things, but to a fighter like David Marrison, it says to fight just that much harder. Set more goals, do something! "You need goals," said David, "even if it's just getting up in the morning."

The Ohio FFA convention was scheduled for the end of April and David wanted to be one of the vice presidents. After all, only three students from his home county of Ashtabula had ever achieved state office and he meant to be next. His sister Denise, now in college, had been one of those three. He knew he could do it, but the doctors had advised against it.

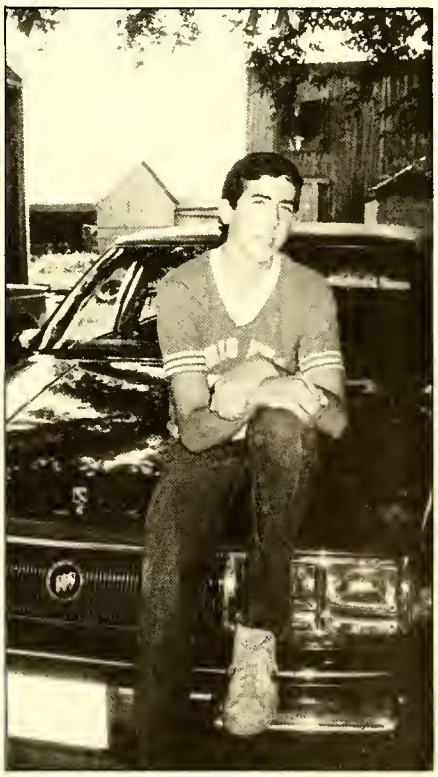
He decided to go for the office and before beginning chemotherapy treatments, he went to the convention. Though not able to attend all of the work sessions, David did complete the many interviews and speeches necessary for the office. He won the election, becoming vice president of the Northeast section, representing 18 Ohio counties.

Marrison went home from that convention a winner and began ten intensive weeks of treatments and surgery at the Ashtabula County Medical Center and Hamot Medical Center in Erie, Pennsylvania. Even then, his goals kept him going as he attended the monthly FFA cabinet meetings in Columbus as well as the national leadership conference held in Michigan.

For much of what David has done, goals have been a big part of his incentive. There are trophies setting on a shelf for a variety of goals already met. One is an award for an extemporaneous speaking contest held in a six-county area; another is a second-place computer contest award through the gifted student program, still another is a first place in an FFA Creed contest. Through this contest David also won a silver rating in state competition.

As the treatments continued, young Marrison knew that if he was going to make valedictorian of his graduating class and achieving some scholarships for college, he would need some help. A tutor worked with him for six weeks of his cancer treatment time and his 4.0 grade average still stands.

He could easily have decided to take easier classes in order to maintain the grades he wanted, but he knew that wasn't the way he wanted to do it. When it came time to register for his senior year he included physics, trigonometry, calculus, government, English, band and vocational agriculture. Only five schools in Ashtabula County teach vo-ag but his dad had once been a vo-ag teacher and farming was a big part of his life.



As the treatments continued, David said that he did not get "real sick," but he was extremely tired. Much of his hair came out, as it often does in cancer treatment, but he knew it would grow back.

David's family was always there, ready to encourage and help. They knew his goals and his determination. The Marrisons' farm over 500 acres and milk 60 dairy cows.

As David began to feel better after the treatments, he continued not only his education, but also his involvement in jazz and marching bands. He'd lettered in basketball and cross country for two years, but decided that these had to be put aside for the time being. David continued to maintain his goals and standards and at the beginning of his senior year, was elected class president and inducted into the National Honor Society.

Part of his job as an FFA state officer included making speeches to other chapters; a talent which involves not only being able to speak in public, but the ability to motivate other teenagers. His speeches never centered on himself, but on the talents and abilities of others.

"Every man makes a difference and every man should try," he says, quoting the late John F. Kennedy, and David Marrison himself went on making that difference.

"Believing you can do something is important if you ever want to get it done," said David. In one of his speeches to his peers, he tells of an old man who was locked in a box car. It had a broken thermometer and, consequently, registered below freezing when the actual temperature was 50 degrees. "The old man believed so strongly that he was freezing to death, that he actually did," said David.

Feeling better means back to work and resuming chores for David Marrison.

Photos by Author

David Marrison knows what it is to believe that strongly and he also knows the results. And even more importantly he has now heard the doctors say that one word that is more powerful than the dreaded one of cancer, which he heard last year. Now his physician is saying "cured" and David Marrison is on his way toward more new goals.

Looking toward the future he said, "You must believe enough, decide what it is you really want, and then set your mind to it and go after it." There may be some questions in the minds of those who know David about what his next goals will be, but there's no doubt that he will meet them head-on with the determination that makes life worth living. •••

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After surveying community needs and growers' interests, the FFA chapter in Mankato, Kan., brought a new hay-buying and alfalfa-processing business to their town. The BOAC project generated jobs and revenues for the community.

Shaping the Future of Rural America

In many rural American towns, there are extraordinary young people who just are *not* interested in waiting to see what the future holds for them. They're shaping their futures themselves.

These people are members of the FFA chapters across the country that participate in the Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program. BOAC is an FFA community development program that encourages teenage volunteers to enhance the quality of life in their hometowns. BOAC is the FFA's largest program, and the program sponsor — RJR Nabisco, Inc. — is the FFA's first million-dollar contributor.

FFA chapters in Kansas, Ohio, Washington and Tennessee were recently chosen as the four national finalists in the 1986 BOAC awards program. The teenagers in these chapters brought a new business to an economically troubled town, created a recreational facility for families in several counties, started a timber operation that put people back to work, and renovated a community park.

New hope in Kansas

The FFA chapter in Mankato, Kansas, was disheartened by the number of people compelled to leave town each year due to a lack of employment opportunities. As its BOAC project last year, the chapter carefully surveyed the community's needs and interests, then decided to try to attract an industry that would generate jobs and revenue for the area. After surveying the community's alfalfa production capacity, the students began working to bring an alfalfa processing business to the area.

Working with the National Hay Growers Association, the city council, a regional planning commission, the county extension service, Kansas State University and other organizations, the FFA members succeeded in getting a Montana businessman to move his hay-buying and alfalfa-cubing business to Mankato during 1986.

The hay-buying cooperative was established first. In a five-month period, the business purchased 1,500 tons of alfalfa from local growers, generating $78,000 in revenues for the community. That operation also created jobs for Mankato residents. In addition, the project provided work for persons elsewhere in the Midwest, since the alfalfa was shipped to several states.

The students named their project TRAC, meaning Total Revival of an American Community. It has indeed

This BOAC insert sponsored by RJR Nabisco, Inc.

breathed new life into Mankato. When the alfalfa-cubing plant goes into full operation this year, it will create jobs for 35 local people and generate revenues for 15 other businesses in the area. Alfalfa growers within 150 miles of Mankato will profit from selling to the plant.

"Greg Doud, our BOAC committee chairman during the first year of this project, helped get the community involved by showing his enthusiasm for the project," says Kevin O. Harris, the Mankato Chapter Advisor. "He helped organize community meetings, and spoke at most of them about what the FFA was doing. He also kept the community informed about the project through the local newspaper. He established relationships between the chapter and community groups, and he learned where to turn to get help in certain areas."

A place for Ohio families

In Ohio, last year the New Lexington FFA chapter created a 47-acre public facility for camping, hiking, picnics, fishing, boating, and trap shooting for the residents of Perry County and the surrounding area.

"We researched available public recreation facilities in Perry County and found they were non-existent," explains John McGaughey, who served as the chapter's BOAC committee chairman. "A survey of 2,000 community people and conservation organizations proved the need for a public, outdoor recreation facility. Perry County has a population of 30,966 people — many of whom are interested in outdoor recreation."

Motivated by that interest, the FFA members converted a run-down, financially troubled gun club into a top-notch public recreation facility. The new Perry County Gun Club offers families a safe, attractive setting for civic meetings, fishing, camp-outs and other recreation.

Working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the FFA obtained federal funds to purchase and renovate the property. The students also worked closely with county commissioners and the State Department of Industrial Relations.

FFA members built new shelters, showers, gun racks, picnic tables, and charcoal grills. They cleaned roadways and a six-acre lake, stocked it with fish, and constructed shooting ranges. They cleared campsites and laid electric lines. At the clubhouse, they installed new windows, re-roofed, painted and built cupboards. They installed directional signs and publicized the facility's availability.

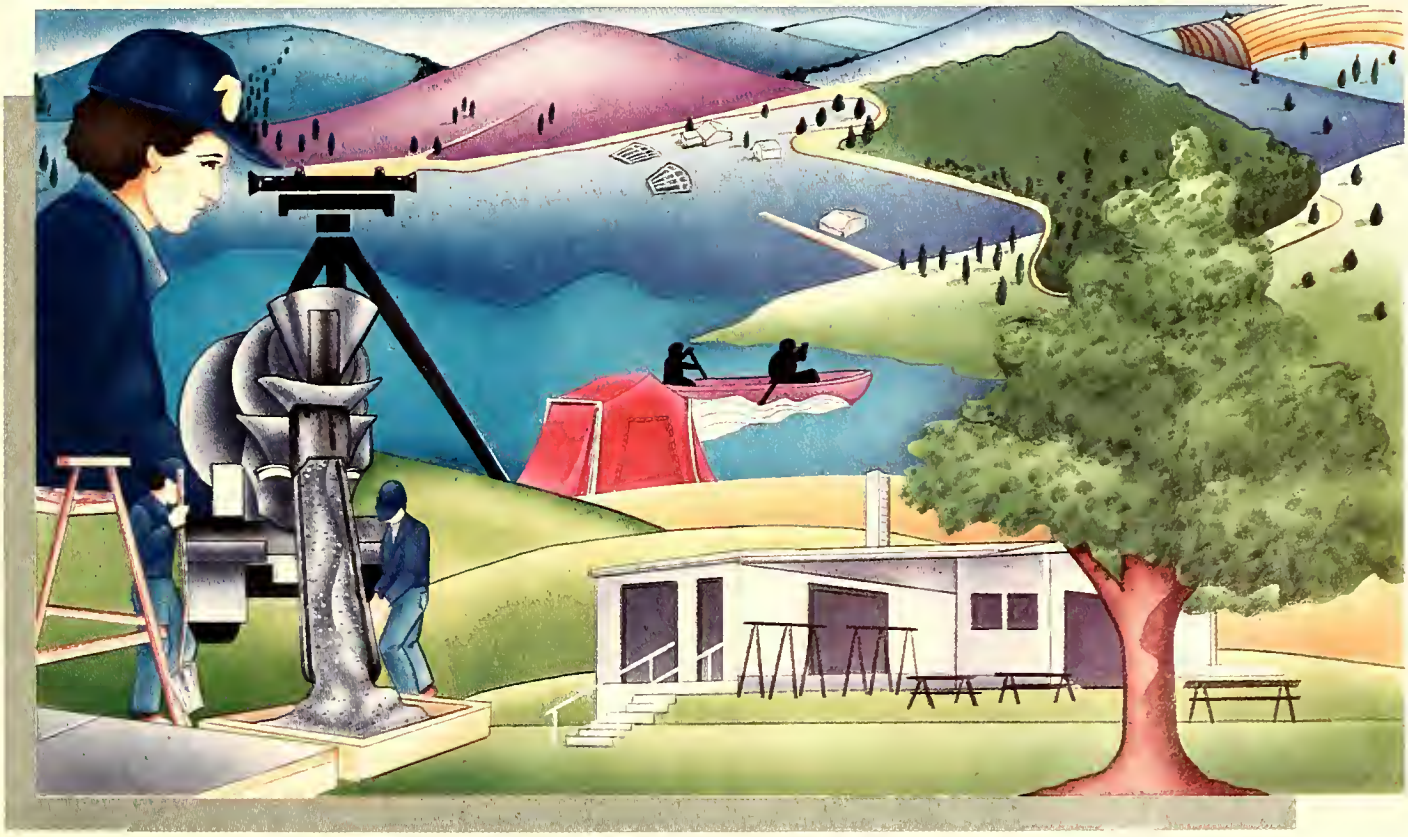
The 4,500 hours the students devoted to the project in 1985 paid off. The facility generated substantial income for the community and created jobs for seven people. And, working with various local game associations, the students improved the area's wildlife management practices.

Washington goes out on a limb

During the 1985-86 school year, the members of the Elma, Washington, FFA chapter tackled the problems caused by a severe economic slump and high levels of unemployment in their area. Their BOAC project was called ABC — Tree, or Ag Boosters' Challenge Toward Regional Economic Enhancement.

The students' goal was to arrange for local people to provide planting services in several counties to Weyerhauser and other timber companies. More than 2,000 acres were reforested, with more than 940,000 trees planted. The students gained experience in timber production practices and the operation and maintenance of forestry equipment.

The planting phase of the project generated half-day employment for 19 students for six months and provided full-time employment for 21 adults for four months. The thinning and harvesting process will generate thousands of hours of employment and a multimillion-dollar payroll, while boosting the local sawmill and construction industries. The project has also improved the local habitat for wildlife, and reduced erosion.



The New Lexington, Ohio, FFA chapter renovated a gun club property to create a 47-acre public facility for camping, hiking, picnicking, fishing, boating and trap shooting.

The Elma Chapter gained valuable experience in working with area granges, the Elma Ag Boosters and other civic clubs, the chamber of commerce, and the local merchants association.

"Before starting work, we studied unemployment statistics, social problems attributed to unemployment, past employment trends, entrepreneurship opportunities and training," says Dennis Prante, who served as BOAC Committee Chairman for the Elma FFA last year. "We decided that ABC — Tree would help reduce unemployment by creating jobs, provide on-the-job training in forest management, and improve the economic welfare of our families."

Prante adds, "I feel that one of the most important leadership skills I learned was to get others to see the benefits of our project, and to help them visualize themselves as having an important role in the successful completion of the project. I found that if people only see the potential benefits of our goal, they want it to be their goal, too."

The Elma, Wash., FFA chapter brought some relief for their community's economic slump by arranging for local people to provide planting and harvesting services to timber companies.

Faith in Tennessee

Tennessee's nickname, "The Volunteer State," came to life in the BOAC program conducted last year by the Bartlett FFA chapter. Under the name Future FAITH (Farmers Are Into Tennessee Homecoming), the FFA members conducted several projects designed to beautify the area and provide services to the needy.

The BOAC project meshed perfectly with the governor's call for statewide community participation in Tennessee Homecoming '86, a campaign to stimulate state improvements during the coming decade in preparation for Tennessee's 200th birthday in 1996.

The Bartlett FFA restored Triangle Park, planting over 70 trees, 90 shrubs and hundreds of bedding plants. The students poured sidewalks, built a gazebo, installed fencing, lights and flagpoles, and erected and landscaped signs. They also did numerous other volunteer projects, including delivering food baskets to the needy during Christmas.

The project required students to interface with the mayor, board of aldermen, local civic clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses. The students' voluntary efforts saved the community $44,000 in labor and other costs, compared to the cost for contracting such work.

"The area in which my father was raised, as well as my grandfather, is the place I have chosen to reside the rest of my life," says Robert Singleton, the Bartlett BOAC committee chairman last year. "The first courts in the county were here. There is much history in this place, and I wanted to be a part of that history."

He continues, "Also, I have seen enrollment in vocational agriculture drop. The FFA's endeavors help inform the public about the importance of vocational education. And the park we restored should leave a mark for the next generation of FFA members."

Making a difference

At the national FFA convention in Kansas City, Mo., in November, the top national BOAC chapter will be selected from the four national finalists in Mankato, Kansas; New Lexington, Ohio; Elma, Wash.; and Bartlett, Tenn. And the finalists' outstanding projects offer only a glimpse of the far-reaching achievements of BOAC committees throughout the country.

Through the BOAC program, which was established in 1971, more than 4,000 local FFA chapters have donated thousands of hours of labor to their communities during more than 17,000 projects. It's estimated that this labor alone is worth about $9.5 million a year.

Last year, President Ronald Reagan saluted BOAC award winners during a meeting with them in the Rose Garden at the White House. "I have been very interested in the Future Farmers of America, and your Building Our American

In Bartlett, Tenn., the FFA chapter conducted several projects to beautify the area and assist the needy. For example, the chapter built a gazebo and restored Triangle Park, and delivered holiday food baskets.

Communities program," he told the winners. "It is gratifying to see young people like yourselves volunteering your time to keep these communities strong."

President Reagan has awarded three citations for volunteer achievement to BOAC, and has given the program sponsor, RJR Nabisco, a commendation for private sector initiative in community service.

The sponsorship commitment by RJR Nabisco (formerly R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.) includes underwriting the national awards program, the National FFA Community Development Conference in the nation's capitol each fall, BOAC research efforts, and the production of community development texts for all high schools with FFA chapters.

J. Tylee Wilson, chairman of RJR Nabisco, explains the company's interest in the program. "Rural communities in America face great challenges in coping with the economic problems confronting many small farmers. But emerging with this deep concern is renewed evidence of the pride and resourcefulness of rural communities. A spirit of self-reliance and a willingness to help others are two qualities that have made our country strong and proud."

Wilson adds, "RJR Nabisco is one of the world's largest manufacturers of agriculturally based products. We have a vital interest in the future of American agriculture, and we believe the Future Farmers of America develops future leaders of agricultural America. Through BOAC, students have the opportunity to develop skills that will help them as they move into agricultural professions. At the same time, they are making lasting contributions to their communities."

The BOAC program helps students understand the principles of community development, acquire skills in community leadership, learn about local, state and federal resources that can help solve problems, and furthers the economic development of local communities.

Outstanding chapter accomplishments and individual leadership efforts are honored through the BOAC awards program. Each year four finalist chapters win $250 each, and the ten students selected as "Achievement in Volunteerism" finalists are awarded more than $5,000 in all, including a $1,000 award to the first-place winner for use by his or her chapter. In addition, the individual BOAC winner from each state, and his or her advisor, receive an expense-paid trip to the National FFA Conference on Community Development in Washington, D.C., during the fall.

BOAC, a special project of the National FFA Foundation, is administered in cooperation with the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Agriculture.

For more information about BOAC, write to: Ted Amick, Director — BOAC Program, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

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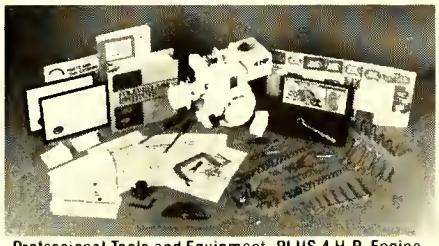

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Jerseys

(Continued from Page 14)

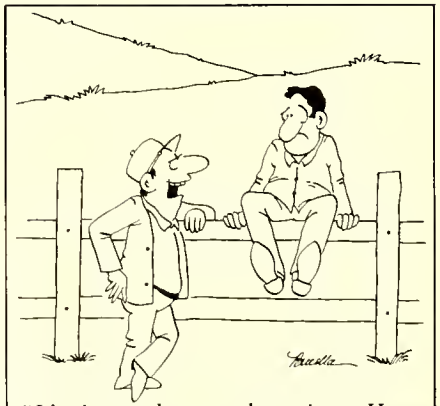
breed awards." Four years later, a classifier from the American Jersey Cattle Club ranked Heidi at 97—on a scale of 1 to 100. "She's the only living Jersey cow to score that high," Denise says.

Last year, the Smiths embryo transplanted (E.T.) their prize cow. This is a high-tech breeding technique that enables a breeder to get many more offspring from a superior dam and sire, by transplanting fertilized eggs from the female into several other lesser cows, to finish the reproductive cycle.

Denise is no stranger to the milking parlor and the equipment that milks 170 Jersey cows twice a day.

"We have eight heifers and six bull calves from Heidi, out of recipient cows," says Denise. "We're going to show some of the heifers and see which one of the bulls will be best for breeding. Right now we're still waiting to see what will happen."

With Denise's interest in genetics and breeding, it was only natural that she would be interested in E.T. techniques. In fact, she first planned to study E.T. when she started college. "It just fascinated me the first time we performed an embryo transplant on one of our cows," she says. "It wasn't long ago that artificial insemination was a new thing on the horizon. It's hard to believe technology has come so far."



"It's time to harvest the onions. How long can you hold your breath?"

Cloning and gene splicing will be the next big breakthroughs in the livestock industry, Denise predicts. "These techniques will enable us to pinpoint exactly what is wrong in a specific gene, and correct it," she explains. "You can do that now with selective breeding, but it takes years. This will speed up that process dramatically."

New Competition

Naturally, Denise loves to show cattle. She is now too old for junior shows, but she's looking forward to new, stiffer competition in the open classes. "You're just competing on a different level, from kids my age, to people who have been doing this all their lives. It's a challenge that you've got to meet or quit showing. And I don't intend to do that," she says.

In fact, Denise says she will probably show cattle the rest of her life. "It's a good way to keep up with the breed and see how it's changing," she explains.

And with Denise's future plans, keeping up with the livestock industry is crucial. Researchers must be on top of their business. She knows she's been fortunate to be raised on a farm, and by parents who encouraged her to succeed.

Denise's dad Lavone knows the value of FFA—a few years back he was named State Star Farmer and Alabama Future Farmer of the Year.

"Dad has always been a motivating force," says Denise. "My parents have never pushed me into something I didn't want to do."

But Denise has also been motivated to make her own success, too.

"I know there's a lot of people that haven't had the opportunities that I have had," she says. "It's part luck, but I'd like to think I've taken advantage of some of those opportunities that have come my way." •••

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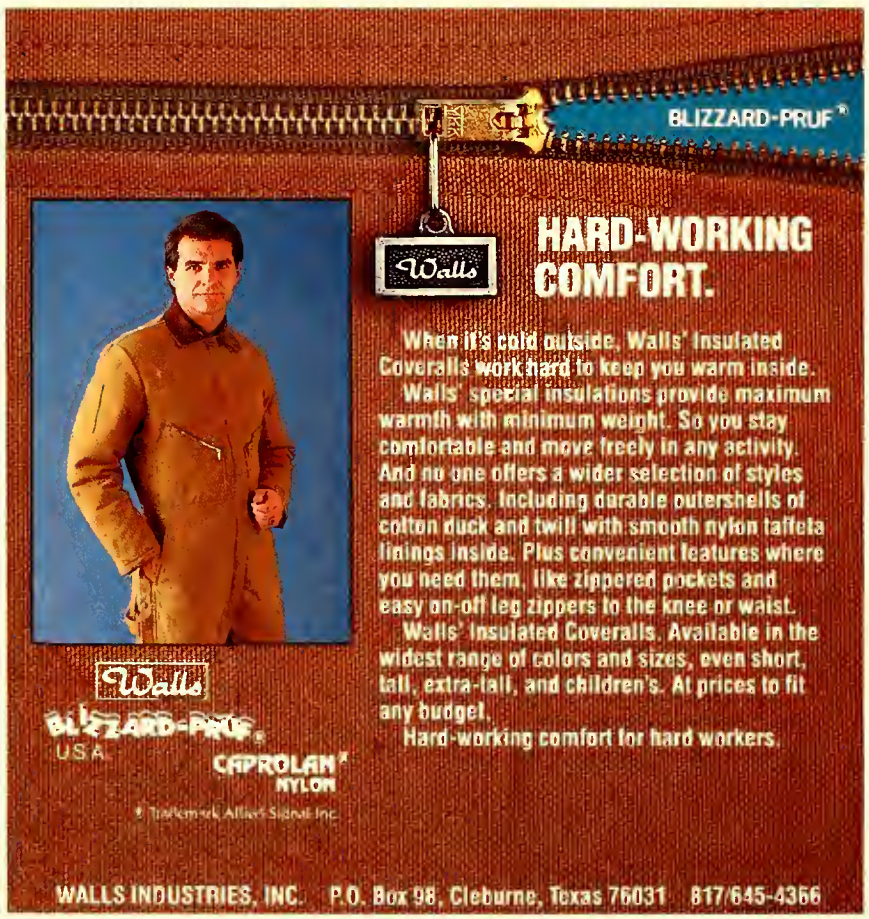
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FFA Makes

By plane, train and truck, bales of hay were sent to help southeastern farmers who had come up against a brick wall in their fight with nature.

Drought had made several states disaster areas and so when word got out, farmers everywhere rallied to help. FFA members were involved with other segments of the agricultural community.

In Iowa

The Esterville FFA Chapter in Esterville, Iowa, loaded a semi-load of hay for Operation Hay Lift on August 7 bound for drought-stricken farmers in Tennessee.

The hay was part of the first crop from the 28 acres of alfalfa/grass hay in the chapter's test plots. Loading of the 400 bales of hay onto the semi-trailer was done by ten members of the chapter who offered their time to assist in the project.

The initial contact for the participation of the chapter in the project was made through the county hay lift coordinator, Joan Runge, in Armstrong. She notified the chapter when the truck would be arriving in Esterville and gave directions to the driver so he could find the hayfield where the hay was stacked.

News coverage of the event was in the local paper and on Radio KILR. *(Chris Erickson and Greg Paulson, Reporters)*

In Kansas

The Holton, Kansas, FFA Chapter, along with neighboring chapters at Royal Valley and Jackson Heights got together to help the cause. They worked with district representatives through the governor's office and the Department of Agriculture.

Members and area farmers donated hay that was hauled by truck to Topeka where the first 1,600 bales were airlifted out. The rest of the hay went via boxcar.

In Ohio

The Wauseon, Ohio, FFA targeted their haylift efforts to help a specific FFA chapter. They sent 550 bales of alfalfa to the Franklin County Chapter in Carnesville, Georgia.

Their objective was to create a chapter-to-chapter effort and fill a need.

The members of the Wauseon Chapter baled the hay they sent on the school's farm the week of July 28 and shipped it on August 4.

Giving Credit

Chapters who submit a written summary of their hay lift activities to Mr. Ted Amick at the National FFA Center, Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309, will receive a certificate and letter of appreciation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. •••

Hay for the South

Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng met with two chapter advisors and their members who told him about FFA's efforts to help with Operation Hay Lift. Meeting with the secretary in his office are: Evergreen, Ohio, members, with their backs to the camera; and their advisor Mr. Virgil Cameron, on left of couch; Mr. Carl Swenson, center, advisor at Payson, Utah; with Neil Brown, on the right end of the couch.

It was not difficult to get enough machinery to bale the hay on the Wauseon, Ohio, school's land lab.

Nor was it difficult to get members from the Wauseon FFA Chapter to turn out and do the back-breaking work of stacking, loading and unloading the bales. Everyone seemed to get into the spirit of the project and put in the necessary hard work to get the crop harvested and on its way to Georgia.

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A Jack of All Trades

By Michael Wilson

IN the fast-action world of livestock breeding and judging, Mike Spitzbarth stands out like a grand champion over all breeds. He knows cattle like the back of his hand.

And hogs.

And sheep.

Fact is, Mike, 20, is a jack of all trades when it comes to the livestock business. His experience and enthusiasm helped him earn his American Farmer degree and the National Diversified Livestock Proficiency award in 1985.

He did it by setting goals and priorities first—a life-long philosophy which now helps him juggle work on the family farm near Fennimore, Wisconsin, plus three of his own livestock projects, and college coursework—all at once.

Top it off with a summer chock full of state and national livestock competitions, and you get an idea of Mike's demanding schedule. To him, the hectic pace goes with the territory. "If I'm not at school I'm usually at home working my tail off," he says with a good-natured grin. "The farm is my biggest priority."

It's also part of Mike's future. He plans on making his living as a farmer, back home at Walnut Grove Farm—his family's farm—after he's finished with college studies. Parents Charles and Janette, and Mike's sister, Nancy, pitch in to take care of his animals while Mike's away studying for an animal science degree at the University of Wisconsin. Even so, Mike finds time to return home almost every weekend.

Mike introduced purebred Suffolk sheep (above) after helping a friend show at a fair. A Polled Hereford calf gets ear-tagged (right) by Mike and his dad Charles. *Photos by Author*

Mike began showing hogs and beef as 4-H projects, and expanded these programs soon after joining FFA. He added purebred Suffolk sheep to the farm after he helped a friend show sheep at a county fair. "I wanted the challenge of introducing a species of livestock not already on the farm, and making it successful," he says.

Today Mike owns 30 purebred Suffolk ewes, 16 crossbred sows and gilts, and several purebred and crossbred cattle, both to show and feed out. He rents 70 acres of cropland, which supplies grain for feed, near his family's 405-acre farm.

He began raising purebred Polled Herefords after he developed an interest in selling breeding stock. Later, he crossed that breed with Angus, then shifted his interest to the Chianina breed.

A Passion for Showing

Mike's passion for showing livestock has taken him to some of the biggest, most prestigious shows in the Midwest. This summer he won champion Angus heifer and champion lightweight steer at the state preview fair. He also showed the champion Angus heifer and won the

Polled Hereford class at the Wisconsin state fair this summer. In past years Mike has shown at the National Polled Hereford show, and the North American International Livestock Exhibition at Louisville, Kentucky. He plans to compete this fall, too.

"Showing gives you a sense of drive, to set goals and try to accomplish them, to try to do the best you can," he says. "When you start out the year, you want to make a goal to better yourself, whether it's showing, feeding or breeding."

But Mike knows there's more to livestock than blue ribbons. His showing experience has provided him with valuable judgement of breed qualities and characteristics.

"Showing tells me what kind of livestock I should be raising for consumers," he points out. Also, the contacts he makes may serve him well in the future. "I hope the people who see our cattle at shows will take an interest in them," he says.

One of Mike's biggest goals is to improve animal quality and boost demand for the farm's stock, through hard work and high-tech breeding methods. He began by learning artificial insemination (A.I.) skills as a junior in high school. Mike purchased a semen tank and began A.I. work on the farm's breed program. Most recently he's been inseminating black baldy cows with Chianina semen, to produce top-notch cross-bred calves.

"A.I. eliminates some disease problems, and you get better breed quality," Mike explains. "Synchronizing estrus saves time. There's no need to move cows every day and watch them for heat."

"We started slow to see what would happen. We wanted to make sure the calves would gain well and fatten out right," says Mike. "We're hoping to sell the better ones as club calves. Depending on the quality of the animal, that can usually bring a better price."

Good hog management helped Mike boost average daily gain (per pig weaned) from 1.71 in 1982 to 2.23 by 1984.

And in the tough, competitive world of show cattle, quality is everything. "The most important thing I have learned is that the better quality you have, the easier it is to sell," he says. "Buyers looking for good quality will pay more and be eager to buy, if your stock is good."

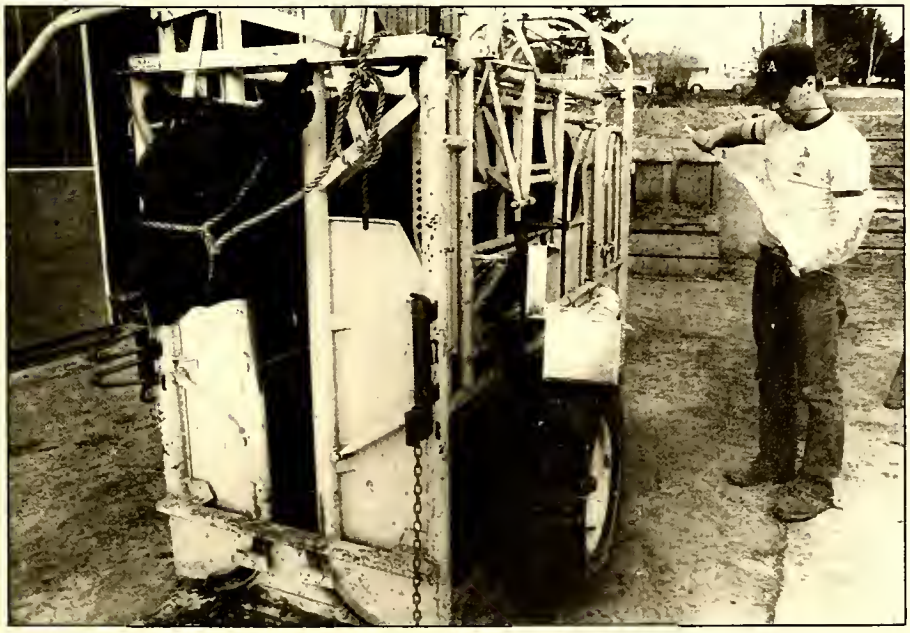
One of the most exciting new developments at the farm is the use of embryo transplants, says Mike. Several fertilized eggs from top-quality dams (females) are actually removed from the cows and placed in "recipient" cows, to fulfill the gestation period. That way, the best animals can produce many, many more offspring than could take place through a normal reproduction cycle.

"The most important thing I have learned is that the better quality you have, the easier it is to sell."

Mike has already supervised an embryo transplant from his top Chianina-Angus cross cows. Eleven eggs were flushed and distributed to donor cows this summer.

Good breeding techniques have also improved the Spitzbarths' swine enterprise. Last year Mike weaned 10.5 pigs per litter. "We started breeding in quite a bit more Landrace, so we're getting a better sow foundation every year," he says. "We were introduced to the Landrace breed at a show, and we knew quite a few people who have had good luck with them." Mike crosses the breed with a mixture of Duroc, Hampshires and Yorkshire pigs.

Mike now does all the artificial insemination work on the farm.



Learning from Experience

Mike seems to have been born with a show stick in his hand. Like others, he learned through experience. "You have to watch others, then get your hands in there yourself to find out what works," he says.

Preparation is important. Mike begins clipping, trimming and handling show cattle in March. That way, new hair can grow in, making it easier to train for showtime. For those with little showing experience, he suggests attending larger cattle shows to see how others fit and trim animals.

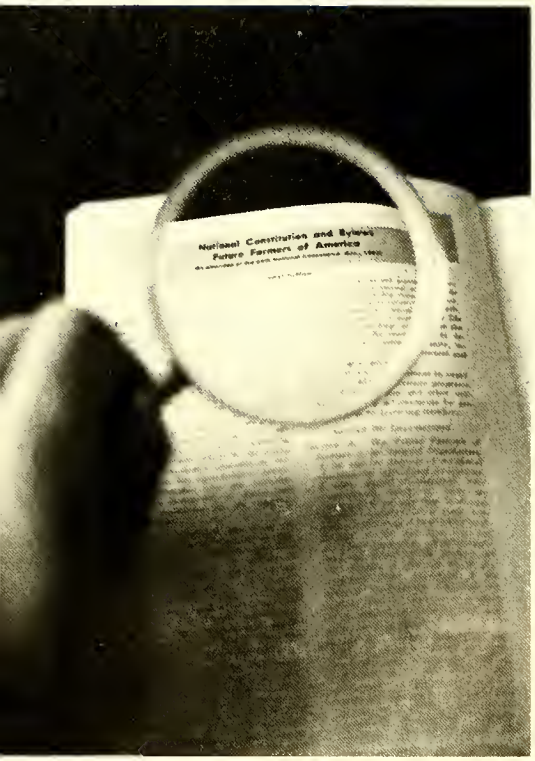
"I also think feeding is very important, so you can keep your animals in condition for the show," he says. But the biggest test comes when you and the animal are in the show ring.

"You have to feel calm and poised when you're in the ring. You've got to keep thinking all the time," says Mike. "The person who reacts to what happens in the ring will always do better. I've had some judges come up and try to push your animal out of line to see how you'll react."

Good showing skills also depend on your relationship with the animal, he says. "An animal can sense if you're nervous, or if you're suddenly exasperated by something the judge says."

Mike rarely lets that happen, though. He's usually in control, whether it's in the show ring, in the classroom, or on the farm. By setting goals and making them happen, Mike Spitzbarth is a jack of all trades—with plenty of aces yet to play. •••

FFA's Constitution Gets A Thorough Examination



There were 30 amendments to the FFA constitution and bylaws passed at national convention in 1972.

A lot has changed in 14 years, but the constitution remains virtually the same.

By Andrew Markwart

As the worlds of education and agriculture are quickly changing, the FFA organization is finding that some of the guidelines set down in its constitution have become out-of-date.

A select panel of six individuals met at the National FFA Center July 10-11 to begin an in-depth study of FFA's constitution and bylaws. The recommendations of this panel may affect everything from changing the wording in official ceremonies to redefining membership.

The national panel consists of Kip Godwin, eastern region national officer; Jerry Paxton, vo-ag instructor; Richard Foster, teacher educator from Nebraska; David Alders, former national officer; Tommy Johnson, state supervisor from Virginia and chairman Ray Hagan, former state FFA executive secretary from Missouri. Lennie Gamage, program specialist-International, is coordinating the panel from the National FFA Center.

The Need

Questions have been raised at the local, state and national levels as to whether the FFA organization is accurately reflecting who the members are and if the members' needs are being addressed. Since the FFA constitution states the guidelines of membership, proper use of the name and emblem and the FFA's overall purpose, it is the starting point for any significant changes.

To make any major changes in the FFA organization, an amendment to the constitution must be submitted to the FFA board of directors for their approval. Once approved, it is voted on by the member delegates at the national convention. If it is passed by the delegates, then action—the changes—can begin.

The national panel has been appointed by the board of directors to listen to concerned members, advisors and other audiences, analyze what is the overall opinion, and make recommendations to the board to begin the process.

To hear advisors' ideas and concerns, the panel will attend the regional meetings of the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association. They will also be attending regional agriculture education conferences, and other meetings for input.

But the aim of the panel is to gather a broad-section of ideas and opinions, not just agriculture teachers'.

You Have a Say

This is where FFA members play a vital role in amending the constitution. The panel is meeting at national convention in Kansas City on Friday, November 14. Between 10 a.m. and noon, they will conduct a "hearing" in Room 203 of the Municipal Auditorium where interested members, teachers, alumni and staff can present their ideas and concerns.

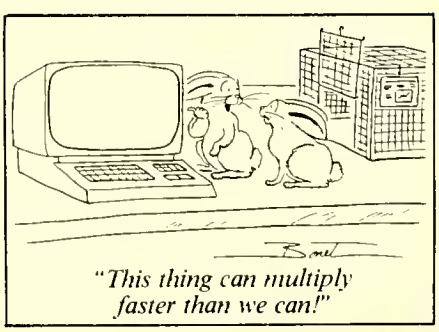
Two hours is a small amount of time to hear everyone, and many FFA members will not be able to attend the convention, so the panel members are encouraging anyone who would like to have a say in the future of the FFA to write to chairman Ray Hagan at: 902 Swifts Highway, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

The panel will be studying such areas as; meeting the needs of students in agribusiness, judging degrees and award programs on merit of accomplishment rather than size, names of the degrees, name of the organization itself, terminology used in the ceremonies and membership requirements. All of these areas are under the microscope, and all are subject to change.

The national panel wants to know what you think. •••

Photos by Author

During their first meeting at the National FFA Center, panel members discuss constitution and bylaw topics to be studied. From left to right are: Jerry Paxton, Richard Foster, Tommy Johnson, chairman Ray Hagan, Kip Godwin, and Lennie Gamage. Not pictured is panel member David Alders.



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Proficiency Winners Tour Europe

Stops in Luxemborg, France, Belgium, Holland and West Germany opened the eyes of these FFA members to international agriculture.

By Doug Butler

LAST November 15, 1985, in Kansas City, Missouri, a dream came true for 29 FFA members. They were honored for having reached the highest level of recognition possible in their chosen proficiency award areas.

As a national winner, each individual was presented with checks totaling $500 and the opportunity to participate in the international proficiency travel seminar made possible by the National FFA Foundation sponsors. Planning began immediately. Passports were ordered, schedules were rearranged and excitement began to build as the months passed and the travel seminar drew closer and closer.

FFA Awards Specialist Bob Seefeldt served as seminar leader for the eighth year in a row. Mr. Seefeldt's experience paid off as he arranged an excellent series of educational visits with enough time for sightseeing and relaxation sandwiched in. Keeping the participants informed on how to prepare and what to expect while traveling in Europe was an important part of the planning.

Finally, June 16 arrived and the members all came together at the National FFA Center for orientation and final trip preparation. Included were a session on cross cultural communications, congressional visits, a tour of Washington, D.C., and a detailed explanation of trip procedures.

Minnesota was represented by four proficiency winners, while California and Ohio each had three. Sixteen different states were represented in all. Most of the members, however, did not know each other prior to arriving at the National FFA Center. The orientation period gave them a great opportunity to get acquainted, build new friendships, and learn about other parts of the country. Sharing about their enterprises and different areas in the agribusiness industry was an important part of the proficiency tour experience.

For the great majority of the participants, it was their first trip outside the U.S. borders. Luxembourg, France, Belgium, Holland and West Germany awaited them.

For the next 16 days these young leaders were immersed in European culture. Dealing with language barriers, new currencies and exchange rates, different diets and lifestyles is something that any tour of Europe could have given them.

Photos by Author

The Palace of Versailles in France was only one stop for the touring FFA members.

This travel seminar not only provided all of those elements, but also opened their eyes to international agriculture, policy making and global economics.

Specific agricultural visits were designed to expose the members to many different facets of agriculture in the various countries. Members took in-depth tours to livestock and grain producers, wine processors, cheese makers, horticultural growers and suppliers, and marketing cooperatives. They also talked with USDA and American organization representatives in foreign offices and agricultural organizations within the various countries themselves.

In Luxembourg, our stops included a dairy farm actively using embryo transfer and LUXLAIT Dairy Cooperative. The itinerary for the first day in France included a beef fattening farm where they feed out mainly bulls and the Champagne Cellar Moet et Chandon. In Paris, Ms. Susan Srurlock Theiler, agricultural attache of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the USDA held a briefing with the group. Visits were also made to a corn and wheat cash crop farm and a large greenhouse operation near the city.

Mr. Dennis Blankenship, a former FFA member, now working with the American Soybean Association (ASA) in Brussels, explained the international workings of the ASA. A representative of the Brussels office of the U.S. Foreign Agriculture Service joined the group for a dinner meeting and discussed international trade policy negotiations during our brief stay in Belgium.

Our bus moved on to Holland where we encountered two very educational stops, the Flevoland Agricultural Exposition Center and the New Land Museum, which explains the process that the Dutch people have used to reclaim thousands of acres of land from the sea. A visit to a diversified crop farm allowed for close-up looks at the sugar beet and wheat crops.

Near Amsterdam we toured a small dairy farm that produces and markets their own cheese and the Aalsmeer Flower Auction, with over 70 acres under roof. Buyers purchase literally millions of flowers, shrubs and trees and ship them to markets around the world.

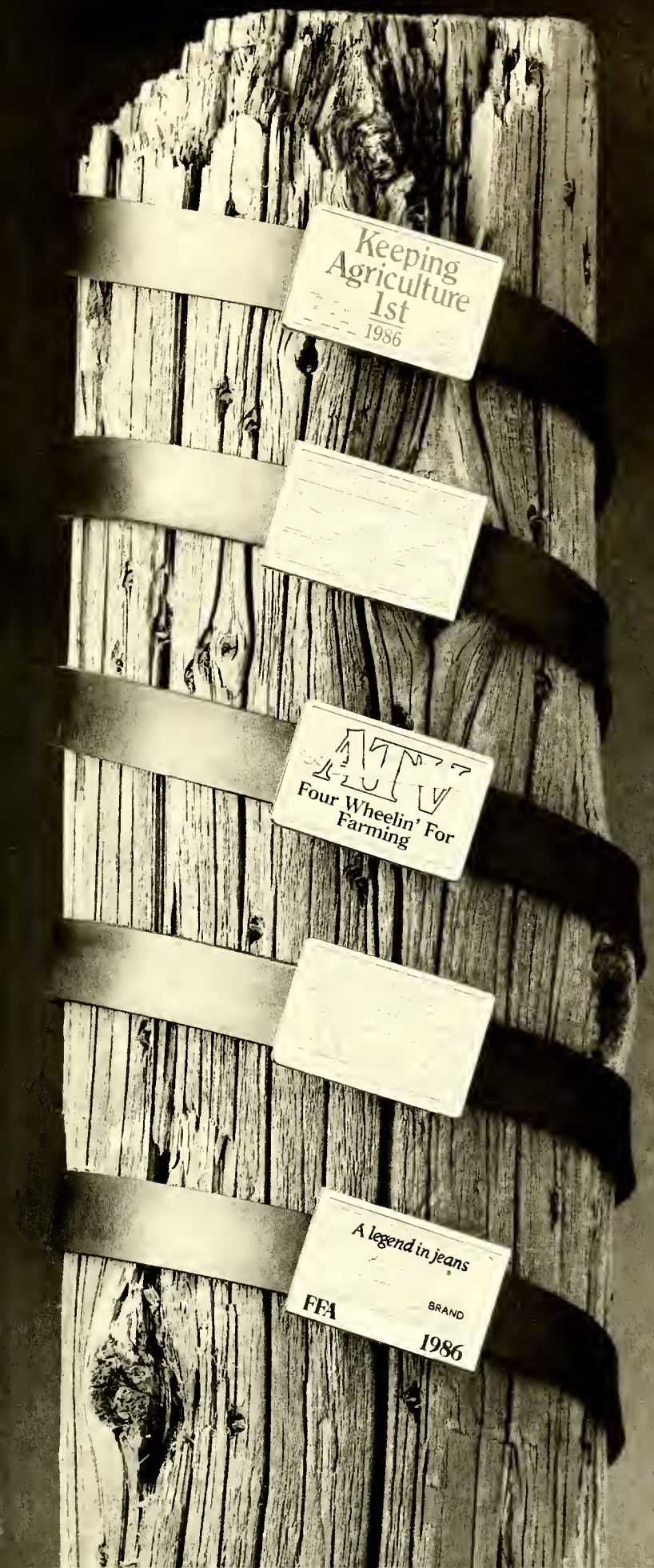
In West Germany we were guided through a large retail garden center developed with the help of horticulturists from the U.S.

Officials from the German Farmers Union explained the structure of their organization and their affiliation with the German Young Farmers.

Overnight stays with members of the Young Farmer Organizations, who served as host families in both Holland and West Germany, provided a close-up look at individual farming operations and lifestyles. One-on-one discussions with members of the organization in both countries allowed for comparison of agricultural practices between countries.

Each individual winner benefitted in his or her own unique way, taking the experiences that were learned on the trip and applying them to their personal lives. Everyone gained an appreciation for European culture, a better understanding of international agriculture and valuable exposure to the global economy of which we are only a part.

The investment made in these outstanding FFA members by National FFA Foundation sponsors will pay off again and again as they share their experiences and insights with family, friends, fellow FFA members and others interested in a European perspective. •••



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News, Notes, and Nonsense from Everywhere

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

The *Kauai,* HI, Chapter is teaming up with the county pork producers in a money-making project of selling Laulau—a bundle of taro leaves containing pork and fish. The event will promote the use of more pork and bring money to the chapter.

N-N-N

James Jones of the *Goddard* FFA in Roswell, NM, was outstanding camper at the state Alumni camp.

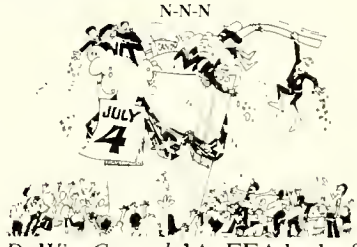
N-N-N

Kerman, CA officers were invited to attend a motivational camp run for student leaders such as student councils.

N-N-N

Six senior members of the *Swiss Hills,* OH, FFA helped their new advisor, **Mr. Daniel Rapp,** unload his belongings into his new home.

N-N-N



DeWitt Central, IA, FFA had a float in the July 4 parade. All the officers and state president rode on the float and tossed candy to the small children.

N-N-N

Ysleta, TX, Young Farmers, Alumni and FFA have a combined swim party in the summer complete with lots of eats.

N-N-N

Three big projects for the *Carey,* OH, Chapter. (1) They made whole hog sausage in the class and then served it as the main course for a parent/member cookout in July. (2) They are the work crew for the Bob Evans' Barnyard at Ohio State Fair. (3) They are making park benches for the state's roadside parks.

N-N-N

The *Greene County,* GA, milk quality and dairy foods team won the state for the second year in a row.

N-N-N

DeSoto, WI, FFA went to see the Milwaukee Brewers play the Minnesota Twins. And any eighth graders who had signed up for vo-ag could go along.

N-N-N

Advisor **Charles Hand** of *Neshoba Central,* MS, was chosen as the outstanding vo-ag instructor during state convention.

N-N-N

There are 60 members in the *Granton,* WI, FFA and just double that in the Alumni Affiliate.

N-N-N

Members of the *Gillespie,* IL, Chapter set up an animal petting yard for the citizens in a local nursing home.

The *Killingly,* CT, Chapter held its 30th annual parent/member award banquet in the Grange Hall. They served 170 guests baked chicken raised by FFA members.

N-N-N

The *Russellville,* MO, Chapter earned $1,100 for cleaning up the Cole County fairgrounds. Members worked five mornings.

N-N-N

Our chapter worked with the school band to sponsor a dinner during our town's homecoming festivities, reports **John Jefferson** of *Dawson,* TX.

N-N-N

Oak Harbor, OH, members toured the muck farm area near Celeryville and watched the harvesting of celery plus cultivation, plowing and packaging of fresh vegetables commonly grown in this area of the state.

N-N-N

According to **Dan Tash,** secretary of *Peoria,* AZ, Chapter, the newly elected officers held two-day officer meetings to plan for their year ahead.

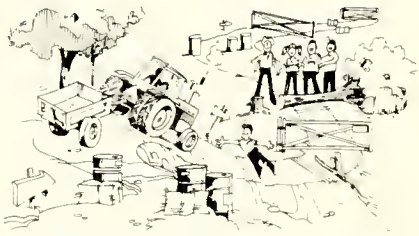
N-N-N

At the July chapter meeting for *Greenville,* OH, FFA, **Jim VandenBosch** reported that all the test plots were planted to corn and all were progressing well.

N-N-N

Todd Scheel and **Rick Rossetti** painted the FFA emblem as a wall mural in the vo-ag classroom in *Troy East,* WI.

N-N-N



Genoa, OH, member **Tim Myers** participated in a tractor safety contest and part of the contest measures the driver's ability to maneuver a tractor with 2-wheel and 4-wheel trailers through an obstacle course.

N-N-N

Meridian, ID, members took a bus to Silver Creek Plunge for recreation and time to plan next year's activities.

N-N-N

Officers and committee chairmen for *Madill,* OK, also had a retreat to plan for next year. They went to a resort and set goals for each chapter committee.

N-N-N

From the 19 members of the *Arickaree* FFA in Anton, CO, there were three of the state's proficiency award winners—**Matt Sweeney** for beef, **Shelly Kinnison** for horse and **Mark Hitchcock** for specialized animal production.

The *Cloutierville,* LA, Chapter banquet speakers were their state senator and state representative.

N-N-N

Marysville, OH, officers were at their vo-ag department in July to host and guide visiting vo-ag instructors attending a regional NVATA meeting.

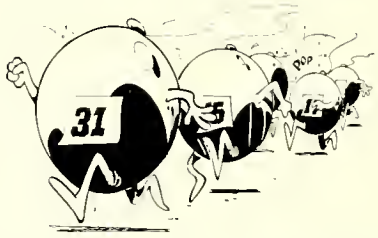
N-N-N

Three members of the *North Mahaska* FFA in Sharon, IA, cooperated with Dow Chemical to scout 831 acres for European Corn Bore.

N-N-N

According to **Neil Neaderhiser,** FFA treasurer, the *Miltonvale,* KS, Chapter held its annual barbeque and swim party. One aspect of the event is to involve Greenhand members in the chapter.

N-N-N



The *Waterford,* OH, FFA hosts an annual barn olympics. Competition events include bale toss, bale loading, egg toss, balloon race and cola chug.

N-N-N

From the Ag Ed Network came a news item about the summer schedule developed by officers of the *Lake Gibson Junior* FFA in Lakeland, FL.

N-N-N

Wayne Andrew "Buck" Cessna is the new Maryland Association state secretary. But his residence is at Clearville, PA, and he attends school at Keyser, WV.

N-N-N

The *Webster, Roslyn* and *Waubay,* SD, Chapters got together and rented a bus for all three chapters to go to Valley Fair—an amusement part in Minnesota.

N-N-N

Tim Snider, member of *Cache,* OK, Chapter lays claim on the first AI pigs to be farrowed in his county.

N-N-N

The *Woodbury,* CT, annual faculty breakfast cooked by old and new chapter officers is a popular event. No wonder with a menu like fresh butter made by the ag class, homemade grape jelly, eggs from members' laying flocks and pancakes with maple syrup made by the conservation class.

N-N-N

Now that fall is back, let's hear from more chapters out there. Some of you reporters need to get into the game of it and send some news—anything, almost!

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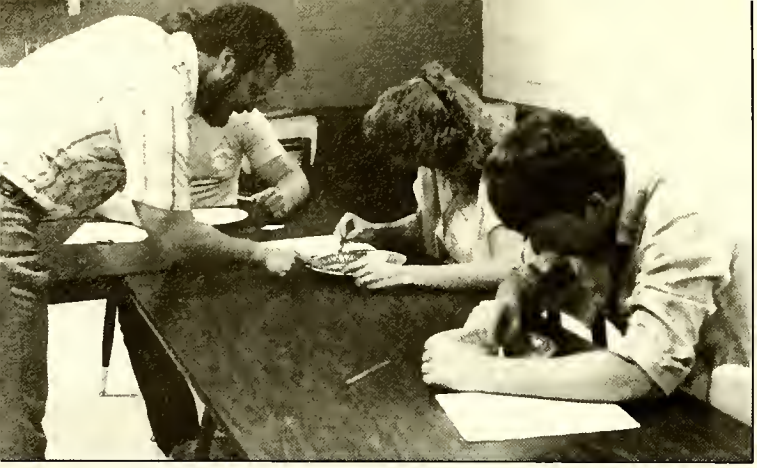


Dwight Wedel asks Debbie Teter to identify an alfalfa seed in practice. Kelly Pitts works on another sample at right.

Tops in Crops

By Julie Andsager

SINCE 1982, the Buhler, Kansas, FFA crops judging teams have won every contest they have competed in. That's ten consecutive victories, including *five straight state* contests. No other crops team in Kansas has ever done this. Buhler also had the high-scoring individual in eight of those contests.

But until 1982, the Buhler Chapter came home from crops judging contests empty-handed. The teams practiced for the contests, but somehow they could never place.

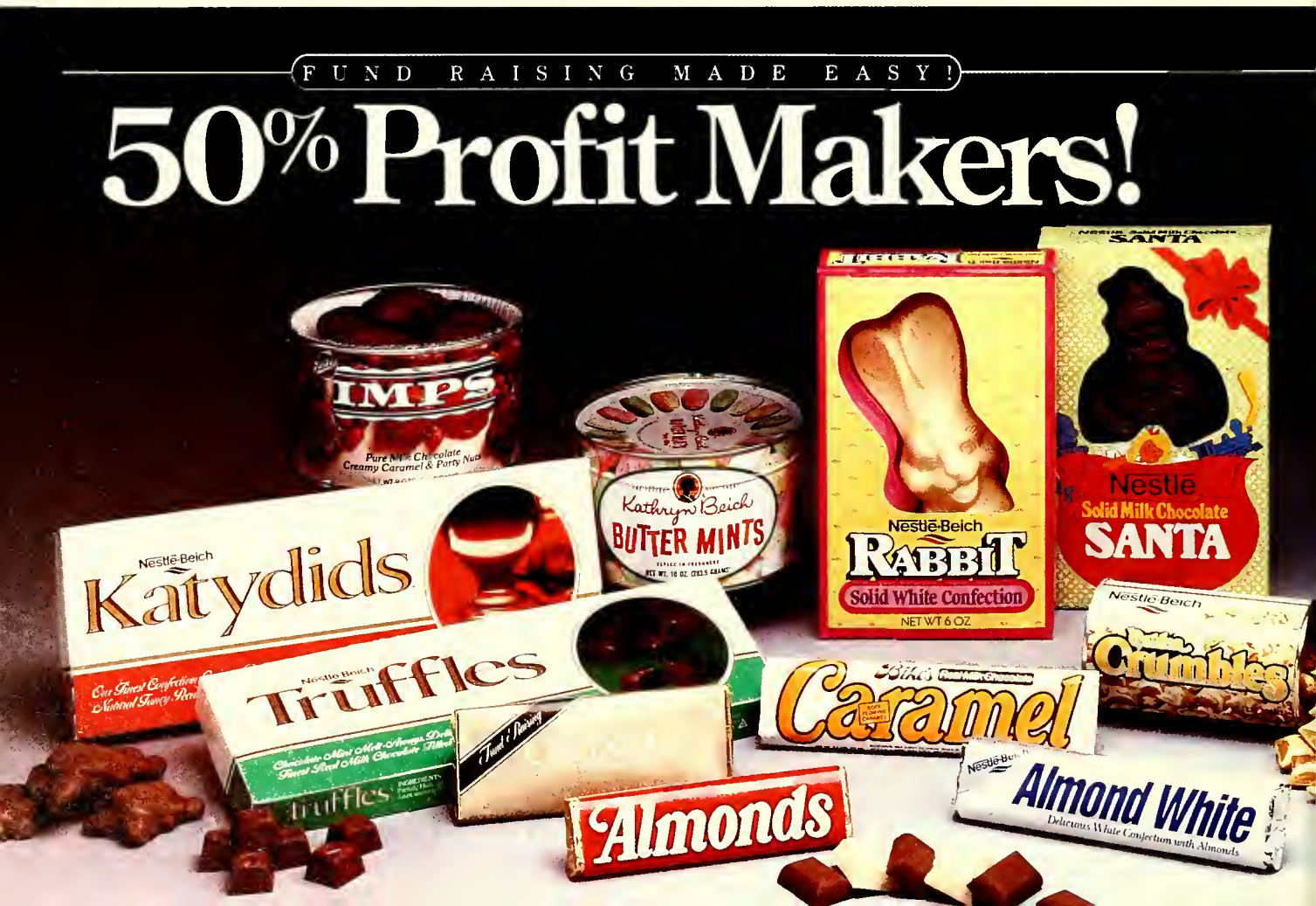
Then the Buhler team went to the South Central District crops contest with a new coach. This time things were different. Buhler won both A and B team divisions of the contest and had the highest-scoring individual. The A team went on to win the state crops contest as well, again with the high individual.

The man behind this success is vocational agriculture teacher Dwight Wedel. His coaching philosophy is simple: "It's just practice, practice, practice—a lot of repetition.

"There's not a lot of variables. Either you know it or you don't," Wedel says. "If there's three people who want to win bad enough, they will win."

Wedel came to Buhler in 1981 with one year of teaching experience. Being a young coach in a new chapter can be difficult, but in Wedel's case it proved to be an advantage. "He knows how to relate," says Kevin Goertzen, 1983 district and state contests winner. "He wasn't much older than us, being fresh out of college. He really knows his stuff."

Since he started coaching at Buhler, Wedel has developed new crops materials for the chapter. He has collected 60 seed analysis samples and made several grain grading sets in addition to five he ordered from Kansas State University.



The chapter's plant identification samples are all preserved under glass.

Wedel's theory that practice wins contests is not just something he preaches. By the time this year's team went to the state contest, team members had judged 36 seed analysis samples, 36 grain grading samples, and 235 plant and 235 seed identification samples, he says.

The team usually worked out after school from 4 p.m. until about 6 p.m.

"We did at least four practices a week for three hours. I did some in class, too," Goertzen says. This schedule sometimes means practicing on Saturday and Sunday, he adds.

Not only does this much practice take up the students' free time, but Wedel's as well. But he doesn't mind spending so much time helping his team, though. "The more samples they look at, the better they are," he says.

To keep his teams from tiring of crops after so much practice, Wedel likes to have four students working out for the state team. This way, they challenge each other because the top three will comprise the state crops team, he says.

Although he works them hard, Wedel's students credit him with much of their success.

"We had a great coach. He had so many little memory clues for (identification), like lambsquarters had a little dot like a lamb's tail. Most of it was kind of stupid, but it worked," Goertzen says.

Kelly Pitts, left, and Scott Eckert watch as Debbie Teter points to an identifying leaf on a plant sample.

Kelly Pitts, 1986 district crops judging winner, also believes that a winning team has to have a good coach.

"That's the only way you can possibly win. Students don't have the capacity to learn this on their own," he says.

Why does Buhler place so much emphasis on crops judging? Wedel says one reason is because "it's the most difficult contest, yet it's the easiest because it's cut-and-dried to win."

However, the main reason may be the growing legend.

"I think a lot of it now hinges on tradition ," Wedel says. "A lot of the guys a year ahead say, 'You guys have got to do this.' They feel like they have to win."

Goertzen was a member of the team that started the tradition in 1982. His feelings about Wedel seem to be typical of all of the Buhler crops teams since then. "I knew we could do it," Goertzen says of winning the state contest. "We all had the mental capability to do it—all we needed was someone to teach us." •••

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Jobs Expected For Ag Graduates

Ag colleges and farmers are going through hard times together. Like the farm economy, ag colleges boomed in the early and mid-70s. But after an enrollment peak in 1978, the nation's four-year land grant universities have seen a 34 percent decrease in students.

But there's still a future in agriculture for young people making career choices. Right now, the job market is competitive and tight in some areas. But many companies are hiring and they're aggressively looking for bright, highly motivated graduates of agricultural colleges.

And four or five years and longer down the road, there will be many good opportunities in agriculture for people with a good education. "So many people have left agriculture that we're down to a handful of qualified people for a big industry," says Chuck Rauenhorst of Agri Search, an agricultural placement firm in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

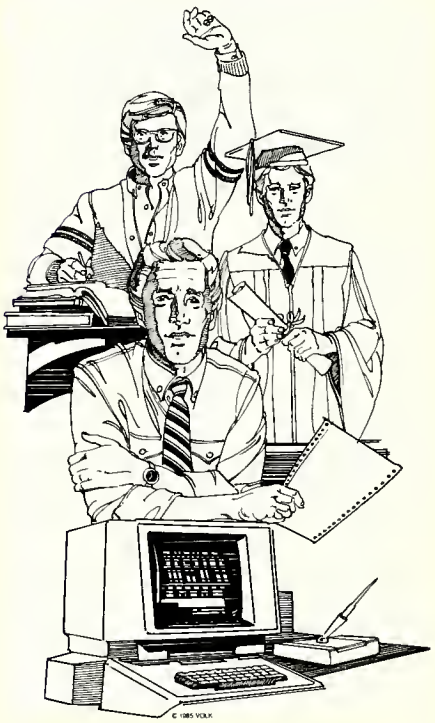
He says that agricultural sales and farm management opportunities should be excellent. "Today, agricultural salaries for top qualified sales representatives are becoming competitive with other major industries. In the future, it's going to be even more important to have an agricultural degree. We must compete with overseas markets and the people coming into the job market must be more professional," he adds.

The "farm" image keeps many good students away from agricultural colleges. "The image of agriculture that most high school students have is cows and a farmer in the field," says Bonnie Johnson of Washington State University. She says an intensive student recruitment campaign that explains the food industry, marketing, sales and other opportunites has had good response in Washington.

Washington State has seen applications increase 25 percent and admissions go up 20 percent in the last year. That was the first year since 1977 that enrollment didn't drop. She says food processing is a "hot" field and that agriculture economics majors have good opportunities. "We think that most graduates are finding jobs," she adds.

Another who laments the farm-only image is Keith Wharton of the University of Minnesota's College of Agriculture. He says that's the number one problem with lower enrollments. "Our fundamental ag production background is our base and we can't afford to lose it. But we need to tell prospective students that agriculture is much more than farming," he emphasizes.

"High school students who take standard tests see agriculture defined as 'farmer, herdsman and horticulturist.' They don't learn that agriculture means things like the biological sciences and engineering. And high school guidance counselors are so busy with other things they often don't have time to do much career counseling. A publication that students pull off a shelf may be the only career counseling they get."



Major companies doing business in agriculture are concerned about future shortfalls of qualified people with agricultural training. Wharton works with a national group of land grant ag colleges. And an agribusiness group is working with them to push agribusiness education as "a targeted project for agribusiness's future."

Roots of the problem, identified by agribusiness people and ag college deans, are as follows:

- 1. Estimates say that 32 percent of all scientists and teachers in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other federal agencies and colleges of agriculture will reach retirement age in the next five years. Agricultural industries face a similar situation.
- 2. Low enrollments in colleges of agriculture and too few graduate students in some agricultural and natural resource areas add to the problem. There's not a sufficient pool being created to meet both traditional replacement needs and expanding demands of biotechnology.
- 3. More than half of U.S. high school students quit math and science by the tenth grade. This limits their ability to continue these studies in college. And, strong competition from other science areas reduces the number aiming for careers in agricultural and natural resources.

Many companies require an agricultural background especially for people who deal directly with farmers. And agriculture is not going to fade away, says an agricultural placement specialist in the private sector. "If you're interested in agriculture and not afraid of the challenge, get a good agricultural education," is his advice.

Where are the jobs? More than 59,000 college graduates in the food and agricultural sciences are needed each year to fill the nation's demand for scientific, professional and managerial positions.

- 37 percent are for professional and scientific jobs like food, soil or water chemists; plant breeders, forest pathologists and animal geneticists.
- 26 percent are in ag sales and service and include marketing specialists, sales representatives, buyers and landscape contractors.
- 10 percent are in ag production and management. Farm management advisors and feed advisors are examples.
- 10 percent are in administration and finance. Jobs include agricultural and trade economists, market and financial analysts, and managers and administrators.
- 9 percent are for specialties in manufacturing and processing like toxicologists, drainage engineers, agricultural engineers and entomologists.
- 7 percent are for communications and education specialists. This includes jobs on college and university faculties, teaching secondary school, cooperative extension service educators, public relations specialists, technical editing and photography.

Average annual demand for college grads with expertise in agricultural and food sciences exceeds the supply by 13 percent. Some of the best jobs require a master's or doctorate degree. And there should be some good news for people finishing graduate degrees in the next few years. About 27 percent of the faculty members in colleges of agriculture will be 65 by 1994 and eligible for retirement. And the U.S. Department of Agriculture—the largest employer of agricultural scientists in the country—will have even a higher percentage of retirements in the next decade.

More information is available from both two- and four-year agricultural colleges in your state.

Condensed and reprinted from Harvest States Journal, *Spring 1986.*

The Banquet Scene

EVERY chapter hosts an annual banquet—often in the spring. They honor parents, recognize achievements of members, as well as thank alumni, school and agribusiness leaders.

That's why in the April-May issue we invited chapter reporters and advisors to send in photos and stories of especially successful chapter banquets.

Our invitation included an offer to send an FFA corduroy cap to those who sent in the five best photos and five best stories. The hats are in the mail to Leann Crouch, Mansfield, Texas; Vo-ag instructor, Versailles, Ohio; Sara Baucher, Coldwater, Ohio; Ed Finan, Westmoreland, Kansas; Lorie Riddle, Brodner, Ohio; Kelly King, McClain FFA, Greenfield, Ohio; Elaine Conner, Hunterdon Hills FFA, Glen Garden, New Jersey; Kelley Stevens, Meridian, Idaho; Dennis Daugherty, Apollo-Ridge FFA, Spring Church, Pennsylvania; and Misti Snyder, Elgin FFA, Marion, Ohio.

Kelly Kings's article told about an idea the McClain Chapter used to get rid of chapter banquet "blahs." It also created greater awareness for FFA in the community. Their idea was to televise the banquet for a local cable program.

After dinner when the ceremony was about to begin, the camera was turned on. Then the program continued with freshmen presenting the Creed, sophomores presenting honorary awards, and juniors and seniors presenting proficiency awards.

The film also covered the time during the banquet when each member stood to recognize his parents and family.

Highlights of the article submitted by Ed Finan for the Westmoreland, Kansas, Chapter was awarding seven $100 scholarships to seniors by the FFA Alumni Affiliate; and the funny entertainment organized by the senior members who did an FFA version of the "superbowl shuffle."

The chapter also was thoughtful to invite banquet guests in to tour the vo-ag department facilities.

Versailles, Ohio, Chapter invited a past national public speaking contest winner Tim Hoberty to speak.

Past chapter scrapbooks attracted the attention of many of the guests at the 25th anniversary banquet for Lakota. Guests had an opportunity to brouse through them during a special reception held prior to the start of the banquet.

A special event at the Versailles, Ohio, banquet was a cake, pie auction which generated dollars to pay for the banquet. Items were made by parents and auctioned by Honorary Chapter Farmer Bill Roll. Several of the goodies were purchased by other FFA chapter delegations who were guests at the banquet, like a cake bought by Darke County FFA for $25. •••

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Introducing The 1986

These eight FFA members are the best of the best. but because they weren't afraid to get their hands

By Rachel Vining

It's November 13 at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, and 20,000 FFA members have their eyes on the eight best examples of FFA agricultural production and business—the FFA Regional Stars over America.

These members, selected out of the nearly 700 receiving American Farmer degrees, have already seen their stories told through the slide show on the big screen in the convention hall. Soon, two will receive even more recognition as they are named the Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America.

But these three dairymen, two greenhouse operators, a rancher, a feed salesman and a vegetable producer weren't even trying for the spotlight. These stars, representing the four FFA regions, are standing on the stage now because they weren't afraid to get their hands dirty and take a chance on agriculture.

Milking cows in the freezing early morning, endless rows of weeding in a stuffy greenhouse, and taking on debts and acreage that might rival many seasoned farmers...these scenes are familiar to many FFA members. For these eight, that kind of dedication, along with careful and accurate records, sound time and money management, and support from advisors, family and probably a banker, have earned them the title of "regional stars."

A few years ago these stars, as Greenhands, had a blank record book and a few goals in mind of what they wanted to do as a project. Here are the results of their FFA supervised occupational experience programs...the programs of the Regional Star Farmers and Agribusinessmen.

Mark Elsass—Eastern Region Star Agribusinessman

At a time when many agricultural service companies are feeling the crunch of a slow farm economy, Mark Elsass is succeeding in agribusiness.

The eastern region Star Agribusinessman is a feed and grain salesman, livestock feed specialist and assistant branch manager of Provico-Kettlersville, a division of Botkins Grain and Feed Company based in Ohio. The 21-year-old is now in the

Mark Elsass

employee training program and may move into management in the 135-employee company in two years.

The Anna, Ohio, FFA member began as general salesman, grain tester and grader, chemical and fertilizer formulator and feed mixer. He was promoted to controller of Provico's chemical warehouse plant before moving to assistant manager.

Mark's expertise and interest have resulted in some innovative changes, such as the computer-based nutritional program for area dairy farmers. But he admitted, with gradually declining grain and livestock prices, the feed sales business is a challenge.

With a positive attitude and encouraging words to his farmer clients, Mark is determined to stay on the profitable side of today's agribusiness.

Todd Miller—Eastern Region Star Farmer

Todd Miller, the eastern region Star Farmer, has learned that paying attention to details can be productive and profitable.

Todd Miller

As one-third partner in his family's dairy, one of his self-assigned jobs is to increase efficiency, and he has. By developing better feed rations and changing the cattle's diet from alfalfa to haylage, the 21-year-old has increased milk and fat production while decreasing feed costs by 16 cents per cow per day. He has also reduced the dairy's calf death rate from 16 to 1 percent.

Todd is in charge of the 703 acres of alfalfa and corn the Millers raise to feed the cattle. Todd has also improved crop production through careful fertilizer and conservation practices. During the winter, he oversees maintenance and repair of all equipment and machinery, and helps his partners with the milking.

As a Hamburg, Pennsylvania, FFA member, Todd started his own dairy herd with 20 cows and has increased it to 109. He also rents 50 acres within the partnership for corn and alfalfa.

As a dairyman and a Star Farmer, Todd's records prove taking care of the little things can make a big difference.

Richard Kyutoku—Western Region Star Agribusinessman

Since Richard Kyutoku was six years old and pulling weeds in his parents' cut flower nursery, he knew he would someday work in the family business.

The FFA's western region Star Agribusinessman from Salinas, California, now owns 10 percent of the multi-million

Stars Over America

**Not because they were gunning for any title,
dirty and take a chance on agriculture.**

dollar family business. He receives 2.5 percent of the ownership each year in exchange for labor and management of the nursery and eventually will own 25 percent of the business.

During high school, Richard concentrated on learning every aspect of the business. His jobs on the 10-acre operation

Richard Kyutoku

include flower bed preparation, light and temperature control, fertilizing, harvesting, and grading flowers. His specialties are improving the efficiency of the nursery and marketing roses to be sold across the country.

In 1983 the nursery changed from carnations to roses because, he said, they expected roses to be more marketable. The change meant completely renovating the greenhouse to accommodate the taller roses. They also modernized the greenhouse with a new heating system and a fiberglass roof instead of plastic.

This fall the Gonzales FFA member will be a sophomore at Cal Poly State University majoring in agriculture business management. And while he's studying, he is still thinking of improvements and new marketing techniques for the nursery that will someday be his.

David Petsch—Western Region Star Farmer

In Wyoming, the western region Star Farmer isn't farming—he's ranching. And for David Petsch of Albin, Wyoming, ranching means sharing ownership and management responsibilities for Petsch Ranchs, Inc.; Petsch Land Company; and Petsch Farms LTD.

At 21, David owns one-quarter of all the property. His share includes about 9,000 acres of land and about 500 head of cattle. The Petsch family runs a cow/calf operation with nearly 1,200 mother cows. Since his father died last year, the management of the operation has been shared between David, his brother and uncle.

David balances feed rations, provides health care for the livestock, keeps extensive records, raises field crops and supervises as many as 30 workers during spring branding season.

He credits state and national livestock judging contests with helping him learn to select the best cattle for their operation. As a state FFA officer and a farm and ranch management student at Sheriden College, David has had the chance to practice the leadership and management skills he is using as an owner-operator.

David Petsch

And in Wyoming, for the co-owner and operator of the Petsch ranches, land company and farms, ranching is big business—even for a Star Farmer.

Todd Wilkinson—Southern Region Star Agribusinessman

Last year Todd Wilkinson's business earned a healthy profit, and in 1986 he expects profits to jump 30 percent. Like any wise businessman, the 20-year-old southern region Star Agribusinessman has carefully re-invested and has planned how to increase his earnings.

At his Wilkinson Plant Center in White House, Tennessee, Todd sells vegetable and bedding plants, landscape and garden supplies, and a variety of nursery stock.

As a freshman in high school, he sold the vegetables he grew in his vo-ag class through a roadside market. Then Todd and

another student built their own greenhouse. Soon Todd sold his half of the partnership, borrowed money and built his own greenhouse. During high school his program expanded to include two large greenhouses while he also managed the school's greenhouse.

(Continued on next Page)

Stars

(Continued from Page 49)

In 1985, Todd won the national FFA Floriculture proficiency award, but he's not resting—he has plans to expand his business even more.

Todd is a sophomore in agricultural education at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He is specializing in ornamental horticulture and landscape design and plans to teach vocational agriculture or make a full time career as owner and manager of the Wilkinson Plant Center.

Chris Thompson—Southern Region Star Farmer

Farmers face decisions everyday, but Chris Thompson, the southern region Star Farmer, probably made his toughest choice when he was in high school.

Chris Thompson

After his father's heart attack in 1984, Chris realized the family would no longer farm unless he completely took over the third generation operation. He decided to farm.

Chris usually works 500 to 600 acres in vegetables, and 200 to 300 acres in row crops near Midland City, Alabama. The Dale County FFA member credits vegetables with providing a steady cash return, so he plans expanding to 1,000 acres of vegetables. Although he now sells produce in Georgia, Florida and Alabama, he also plans to expand his markets further north.

When Chris took over the operation, he added 480 acres of vegetables to the 700 acres of soybeans double-cropped behind wheat. He bought nearly 300 acres and all the farm's equipment from his father, including four tractors and field machinery. Chris also added new irrigation systems and implemented soil conservation methods.

While most young people have not made long-range career decisions at the age of 18, Chris' choice will keep Thompson Farms operating for a third generation.

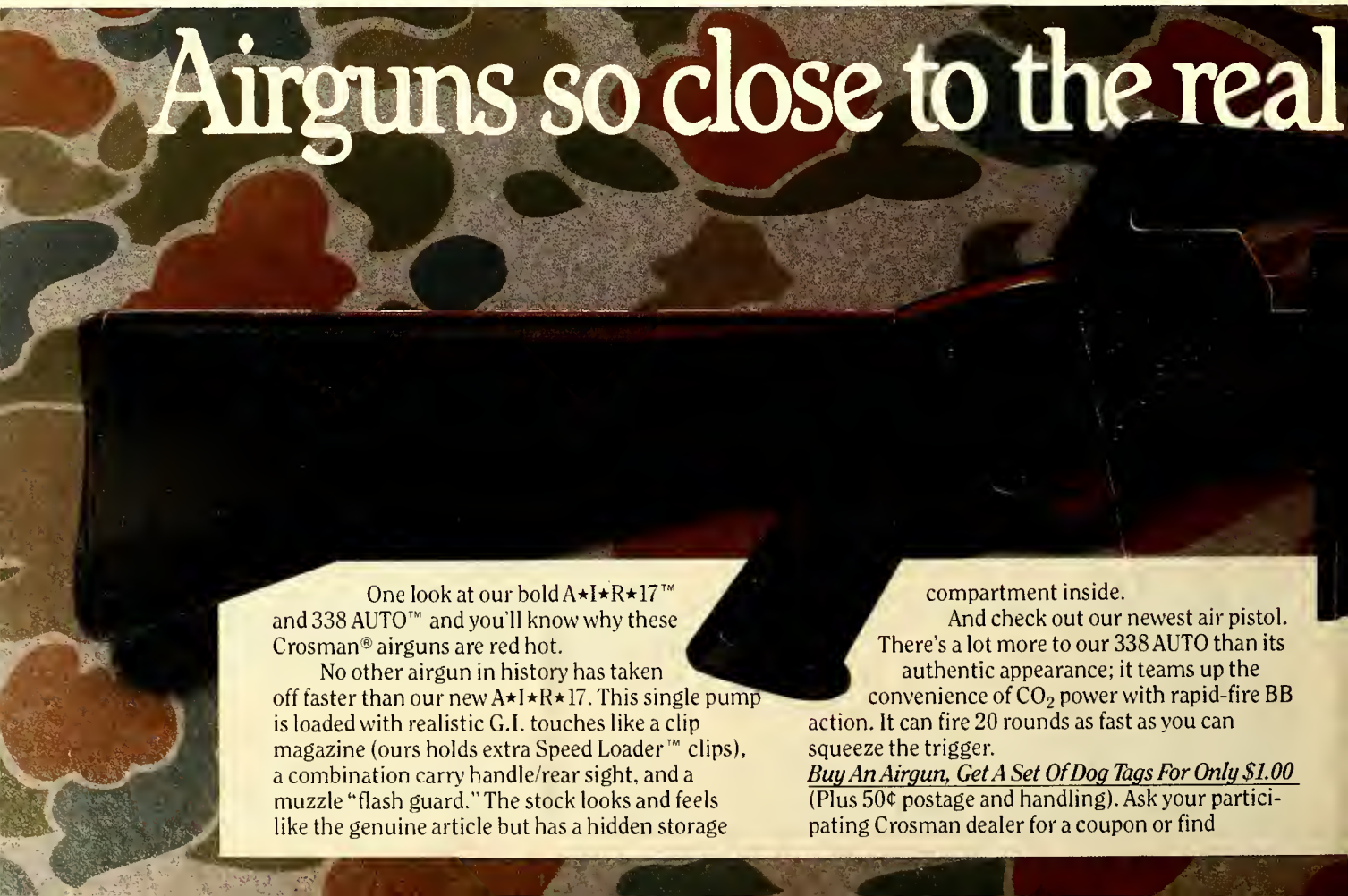
Joe Heinze—Central Region Star Agribusinessman

Joe Heinze, the central region Star Agribusinessman, started his career in 1978 clearing rocks off his neighbor's 2,300-acre farm. He moved up as foreman of that farm and was responsible for repair and maintenance of all equipment and machinery.

Now Joe is the full-time herdsman for a 110-cow dairy farm. But while he's working for someone else, the 21-year-old is making plans to operate his own farm within ten years.

The Belgrade, Minnesota, FFA member began his program by concentrating on machinery repair work for his father. Joe expanded to custom repair and fabrication work including a 52-foot bale elevator, a 2,800-gallon manure spreader and specialty milking equipment.

As a herdsman, Joe's production, breeding and feed records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have helped increase profits by improving milk quality.

For Joe, getting started in farming means taking advantage of every opportunity to gain experience, knowledge and a solid financial base. Farm management classes at the local

Joe Heinze

vocational technical school, extra custom welding jobs and an option to buy into the dairy herd he manages, are a few of the ways he's working his way up from clearing rocks to owning a farm.

Jeffrey Sigg—Central Region Star Farmer

Jeffrey Sigg wouldn't want to be doing anything else right now besides farming. The central region Star Farmer owns and operates a dairy farm and knows the importance of investing time and money into his operation to make it work.

Jeff, of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, bought his first two calves in 1979. He began farming full time in 1983 by renting 121 acres and milking 16 Holstein cows. He now has 31 milking cows, and about 30 heifers, yearlings and cows ready to calve. The Blanchardville-Pecatonica FFA member also raises 100 acres of alfalfa, corn and oats for his herd.

Jeff has returned 90 percent of his income into improvements for the farm. He has remodeled the milking barn, which included installing 31 new milking stanchions. Other improvement projects include a five-year crop rotation schedule, extensive soil conservation practices, a 54-foot by 99-foot machine shed, and a concrete silo for haylage and corn silage.

Jeffrey Sigg

Jeff and his wife are planning to build a calf and heifer barn, install a pipeline milking system, and start official testing of the milking herd.

Although he's got the job he always wanted, Jeff knows this is no time to relax. His dairy farm is a long-term commitment that requires time and money. •••

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Crosman Air Guns

It took 40 members to plant 5,000 miscellaneous varieties of trees and shrubs for soil protection and conservation on the wildlife habitat acreage.

Tree for Tomorrow

The Cascade, Iowa, Chapter in cooperation with the Twin Rivers Pheasants Forever Chapter completed a wildlife habitat project this past spring and planted 5,000 trees and shrubs. Also five acres of food plot were seeded and eight acres of nesting cover were seeded on a 30-acre area.

Use of the land, located south of Morley, Iowa, was donated by Wilbur Johnson of Anamosa. Total goods and services necessary to obtain the seed and plant material, herbicides, labor and required equipment for the project was estimated at $4,500. With the help of material and labor donations, actual cost of the project was reduced to $1,200.

The Cascade FFA received one of the five "Plant America's Trees" grants from the American Forestry Association.

"Plant America's Trees" is a national program that helps people solve environmental problems in their communities by planting and caring for trees. Five pilot projects were selected out of more than 25 applications submitted from all across the country. Each will receive a grant of $1,000 funded by the American Forestry Association and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

The chapter has planted trees, clover and no-till sorghum on severely eroded land owned by Wilbur Johnson. The land had been in row crops and then was heavily pastured. This resulted in damage to adjoining timber and soil deposition downstream. In addition to solving these problems, the newly planted trees will establish habitat for wildlife and the amount of water runoff during peak periods should decrease by 75 percent or more.

Other organizations contributing with the project include the Anamosa FFA Chapter, Jones County Soil Conservation Service and the Cascade Forestry Service.

Plant material used in the project includes: Red Cedar, Black Hills Spruce, Walnut, Red Oak, Ash, Wild Plum, Chokecherry, Nanking Cherry and Autumn Olive. Food plots consist of sorghum and nesting cover consists of alfalfa and clover. •••

State Honors Its Own

Wisconsin students who earned national recognition for skills and abilities in their vocational student organizations were honored at a reception on the lawn of the State Capitol on Tuesday, August 12.

Hosted by State Suprintendent Herbert J. Grover, the reception recognized 68 students who placed in skill competitions or were elected to national offices at one of the five national vocational student organization conferences.

From the Wisconsin FFA, there were 11 members honored for their national recognition at contests and conferences at Norman, Oklahoma; Washington, D.C.; and Kansas City, Missouri.

These members were as follows: Jeff Saharsky-Achievement in Volunteerism; Roudell Weber-Agricultural Processing regional winner; William Wysocki-Agricultural Production regional winner; Gary Van De Hei-Dairy Production regional winner; Michael Spitzbarth-national winner, Diversified Livestock; Phil Muench-regional winner, Outdoor Recreation; Timothy Price-regional Star Agribusinessman; Dennis Knautz, Brad Sherwin, Brian Coulthard and John Fowler, national land judging winning team. •••

Students in the Marketplace

If the agriculture in your community is basically livestock production, than chances are your SOEP includes livestock and you probably have sold or will be selling market animals at a junior livestock auction. The prices received for these junior auctions are above the market price. But, if the agriculture in your community is basically crops, what is the comparable incentive for a crop project?

The Orosi, California, Chapter has helped solve this problem by participation in an organized, certified farmers' market. In 1977, the California legislation enacted direct marketing regulations. When some growers in Tulare County organized a certified farmers' market for their county, the Orosi Chapter was one of the first to join.

The certified farmers' market provides a convenient way for the Orosi FFA members to sell small quantities of produce without incurring high marketing costs (packaging, shipping, commissions), and thus gain maximum returns.

The majority of the Orosi High School FFA members reside in the part of their school district which is a fresh fruit and vegetable area. Many of the members, not having space at home for a project, use the school farm for their productive SOE.

A number of projects are vegetables, but may also include fruit or nursery plants. The chapter cooperative committee handles some of the details for the members such as paying the membership fee in the association and paying the agricultural commissioner's fee. (The county agricultural commissions office is charged with the authority to inspect production and issue the certified marketing certificates. This is to ensure that the growers are selling only what they produce.)

In addition to the members' produce sales, chapter-operated produce projects are also sold. These sales help raise funds for the chapter and help offset some of the expenses of operating the school farm.

Three markets are held each week in the county and the members have usually

sold at the Visalia markets, the county seat located about 20 miles from Orosi. Market days are held there Saturday mornings and late Thursday afternoons. The members have learned that providing a fresh product is important, thus they harvest perishable items the day before or the day of the market.

Ramon Sanchez, left, talks to a customer. Aurelio Reyes, right, weighs potatoes for sale to a customer. Members must learn to do mental calculations to figure sale price totals.

This current season members were involved in selling potatoes, onions, garlic, summer squash, tomatoes, turnips, tangeloes, eggs and nursery plants. Orosi is located in a thermal belt where early vegetable production is possible. This year, members had the first summer squash and the first sweet corn at the market.

Customers were pleasantly surprised to be able to buy sweet corn in mid-June from Ricardo Suarez and Ramon Sanchez. Two freshmen members, Danny Lopez and Silvano Rosales, grew onions, garlic and potatoes. They had new red potatoes at the market as early as April and were usually able to sell 75-100 pounds each market day.

Direct marketing has provided the members with a fair sales price at a minimum of marketing costs. The Tulare County Certified Market organization charges a 10 percent selling fee. Each member who sells is responsible for paying his or her share of the fee.

But there are other benefits. Participation in direct marketing has provided these members valuable learning situations—learning to meet the public, learning what the needs of the consumer are, learning to provide a quality product and learning some practical mathematics. •••

We Believe

The Appleton, Minnesota, Chapter held a pork barbeque for all former members, parents and supporters of their local chapter. The pork was donated by area farmers and cooked by a local farmer. Ice cream cones were served afterward. The ice cream and milk for the evening were also donated by local supporters.

The pork feed was held to express appreciation to the community for all of the support shown through the years. The chapter also felt it was important for the community to have a sense of unity in knowing that they still believe in the future of farming.

A meeting to form an alumni chapter was held afterward.*(Janine Schwartz, Reporter)* •••

Sign Language

This "Welcome to Lancaster" road sign was put up by the Lancaster, Wisconsin, FFA Alumni and the FFA, welcoming all visitors to town. The material was furnished by the Alumni and the FFA chapter built and painted the sign. •••

Chain Saw Crews

After a tornado hit Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, 80 members of the West Muskingum Chapter were on the scene assisting in the cleanup. The FFA members used chain saws and axes to cut up trees fallen during the tornado. They hauled away the trees in the FFA's 2 1/2-ton "Army" truck.

The president of Muskingum College best sums up response to the chapter's efforts. "The FFA did approximately six days of work in one day. They were the hardest working bunch of young men that I have ever seen." •••

Pig Roasts

The Holton Chapter in Kansas is well known for its whole hog barbeque which is its major money-making project. The chapter built the cookers out of 300-gallon barrels and used a rotisserie to cook the meat evenly. Last April the FFA Alumni donated and roasted a hog for the annual parent/member banquet.*(Matt Kennedy, Reporter)* •••

(Continued on Page 54)

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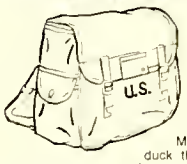

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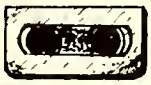

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FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 53)

Safety Seal

South Dakota State President Mike Fossum assists these members in "branding" this tractor before it was used in a safety demonstration at the leadership camp. The Brand 'Em for Safety campaign is a nationwide FFA program to create tractor safety awareness. There were 212 members who participated in the leadership camp offered in South Dakota. Special emphasis was placed on exploring the career opportunities in agriculture. •••

Horticulture Wizards

The 1985 National Junior Horticulture Association horticulture contest first place FFA team hailed from Mentor, Ohio. Dr. Richard Wootten, University of Florida, horticulture contest chairman, presented the awards to Brenda Tye, Steve Schneider and John DeVeny (left to right). John was the grand national FFA individual. The team's advisor is Karl Hagedorn. The 1986 contest runs October 31-November 3 in Raleigh, North Carolina. •••

Table Arrangements in Vo-Ag

Students enrolled in the production agriculture class at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy in New Hampshire, have recently completed a unit of instruction in floral design. The students learned the basics of flower use for making corsages, boutonnieres and several styles of table arrangements.

Using carnations, mums, daisies and other flowers purchased from the University of New Hampshire's greenhouse, each student had the opportunity to make several styles of flower arrangements to wear or view. They used professional quality materials like florist tape, flower arrangement foam and flower preservative.

The curriculum for the class is made up of a half-year of animal science and a half-year of plant science. Students are currently working on projects in landscaping and in greenhouse bedding-crop production. •••

Chapter Watches Water Evaporate

A weather station installed at Royal City High School and used for irrigation research five to six years ago has been put back into use this spring, according to Edward Forster, county agent. The project will involve a cooperating agreement with Royal City, Washington, FFA to make evaporation and related climate data available.

County commissioners approved the necessary funds in the fall of 1985 to renovate and purchase equipment for the Evaporation Pan Weather Station.

The vo-ag program at the high school replaced some soil and planted sod in re-establishing the station and will be making the daily readings. Rod Crowley is advisor.

Evaporation from a standard U.S. Weather Bureau Class A evaporation pan has been used in Washington for over 30 years. The Class A pan is a four-foot diameter round metal pan with vertical side walls about ten inches deep. About seven inches of water are kept in the pan between April to September. Daily readings of the evaporation from the pan are made. The pans are installed in a controlled environment such that there is no shading by buildings or trees, no obstruction of the wind patterns and surrounded by well-watered grass turf.

Research work conducted at Washington State University Research and Extension Centers has shown that crop water usage is directly related to the evaporation from a pan situated in such an environment. By knowing this estimate of the rate at which their crops are using water, growers can manage their irrigations to apply just the amount of water needed and at the right time. This helps to avoid over-irrigation as well as under-irrigation, both of which are situations which can reduce crop yields, crop quality and increase production costs. •••

Dream Year

We started the year with a dream. The dream was the new agriculture building in which we now have vo-ag classes. Just recently we had many teachers from New Mexico tour our building during a tour

of Arkansas, and Kevin Coffman, national central region vice president, visited our chapter.

The excitement of the new building was hard to top, but that was before judging season came around. We had six teams go to state and the poultry team placed second. Paul Swain placed first high individual in that contest.

Our chapter was active in all contests including the leadership contests—prepared and extemporaneous speaking and parliamentary procedure. This was the first time for a parliamentary procedure team from Lincoln to be eligible to compete at the state level. That meant a lot of long hours practicing, which later paid off at the state contest when the Lincoln team was named state winner.

The team consists of Richard McCarver, Lonnie Webb, David Hunton, Missy Williams, LouAnna McAdams, Sheila Webb and Angela Rogers.

Also during the state convention we had 11 members receiving the State Farmer degree.

Plus we had six proficiencies to place on the state level. Four of those were first—Richard McCarver, poultry production; Lonnie Webb, dairy production; Mike Munyon, forage production; and Sheila Webb, wildlife management.

Our instructor, Mr. Dwayne Webb, was named the Agriculture Teacher of the Year for Arkansas. (And as his daughter, I was very proud to see him walk across the stage to receive this honor.)

The highlight of the year was the election of state officers. Two of our graduating seniors were candidates and one, Lonnie Webb, was elected the vice president from the northwest district. *(Sheila Webb, Reporter)* •••

Identi-A-Kid

Recently Lakota, Ohio, FFA members along with the county sheriff, fingerprinted and video-taped children at Lakota Central Elementary.

The FFA was asked to participate in this project because of the Ident-A-Kid program they put together last year.

Last year as a community service project, FFA fingerprinted all of the Lakota elementary students.

This year's program took place over a period of two days during kindergarten registration.

Although only 32 children were fingerprinted compared to the nearly 400 that were done during last school year, the FFA members thought that it was worth the effort, when they consider that they are helping to protect young children.

The members found this to be a perfect community service project that is both satisfying and enjoyable for them and those who participated. •••

National Officer *Action* Update

Summer vacations don't exist for National FFA Officers. One of them attends every state FFA convention plus many leadership conference camps.

Banquet events are an important part of the officer duties. Kip Godwin, eastern vice president, attended the Massachusetts convention in March. Cindy Blair, western vice president, was at the Idaho conference and at her home state's convention in Oklahoma. •••

Cindy Blair took time for a photo with Mr. Ralph Thomas, advisor at Woodward, Oklahoma, and president-elect of the NVATA.

At the Idaho convention, the Meridian Chapter purchased a chapter road sign for $200 at an auction to benefit the state FFA Foundation. Advisor Betz got a special surprise from Cindy.

Seated, left to right, at an awards banquet during the Massachusetts convention, are Jon Michael Muise, state sentinel; Alan Saperstein, state executive committee; Kip; Mr. August Schumacher, Jr., state commissioner of agriculture; and at the podium, Lisa Hixson, state president.

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The Joke Page

One morning while shaving, the man complained that his razor wouldn't cut and that he was going to ask for a refund. *"Now, don't be silly,"* his wife said. *"You're not going to convince me or the store owner that your beard is tougher than our linoleum."*

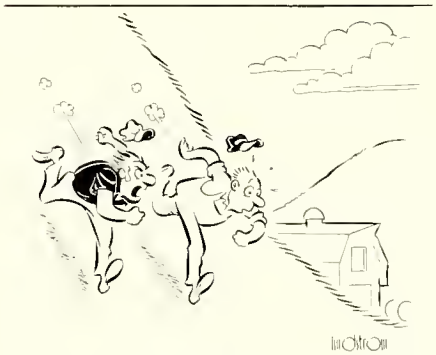
M. R. Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

Q: Who was the first insurance agent?
A: It was David. He gave Goliath a piece of the rock!

Mark Snodgrass
Pritchett, Colorado

Farmer Brown: *"The soil is so good in my south pasture that I decided to plant some melons, but I couldn't eat them."*
Farmer Jones: *"Why not, if the soil was so good?"*
Farmer Brown: *"The soil was too good. The vines grew so fast that they wore out the melons draggin' 'em around."*

Michael Corker
Warren, Arkansas



"I warned you and warned you. This is not the right area for making round bales!"

One day I was walking through the woods and I came across a tent. Inside the tent were a reader and a writer. All of a sudden, there came a bear who charged into the tent. He ate the reader and when he was finished, I asked, *"How come you ate the reader and left the writer?"*
He said, *"Readers' digest but writers' cramp."*

Avery Dalton, Jr.
Ringgold, Virginia

A little boy who went to the ballet for the first time with his father, watched the girls dance around on their toes for a while, and then asked, *"Why don't they just get taller girls?"*

Joey Cooley
Southwest City, Missouri

Q: Why did the turtle cross the street?
A: To get to the Shell station.

Lisa Shifflett
Standardsville, Virginia

Golfer: *"Caddy, why do you keep looking at your watch?"*
Caddy: *"Watch, heck; this is a compass."*

Tom Freels
Elgin, Oregon

After the preacher finished his sermon, he noticed one man asleep in the pew. He went to an usher and asked him to wake the sleeping man.
"You put him to sleep, you wake him up," repled the usher.

Kirk Woodard
Bethpage, Tennessee

Teacher: *"Billy, use 'politics' in a sentence."*
Billy: *"Well, okay, my parrot swallowed a clock and now Polly ticks!"*

Marissa Dail
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Q: Why do cowboys always wear boots?
A: So they don't hurt their feet when they kick the bucket.

Michael Otto
Duncanville, Texas

Q: What's another name for a skinny pig?
A: Chopstick!

Nolan Boles
Mt. Enterprise, Texas

There was a trucker going down the road at 60 miles per hour when a state trooper pulled up behind him, flashing his lights. The trucker speeded up to 70 miles per hour and the trooper got closer. The trucker speeded up to 80 miles per hour when the trooper finally stopped him and asked, *"What's the hurry?"*
The trucker said, *"Last week a cop stopped me and stole my wife and I thought you were bringing her back."*

Joe Meyer
Clear Lake, South Dakota

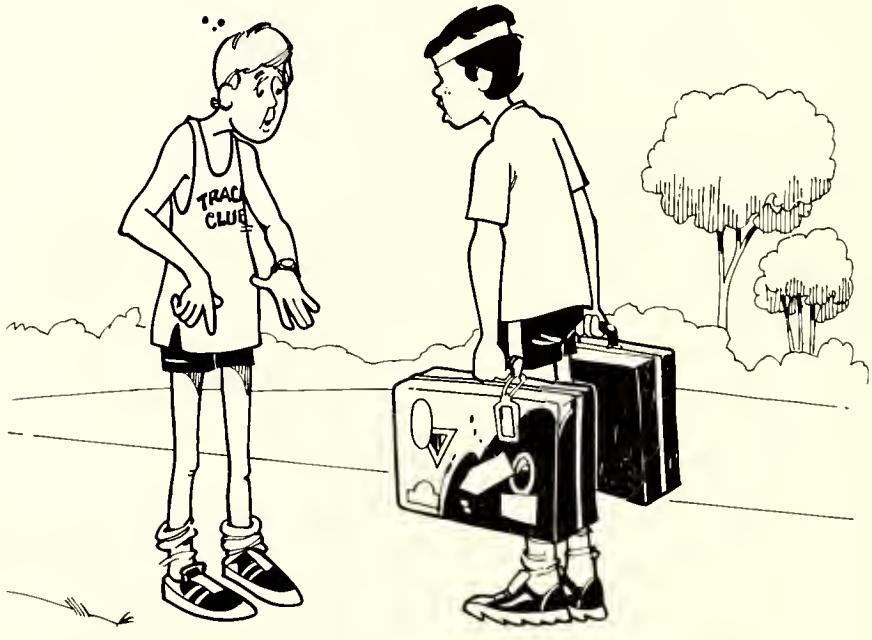
A hopeful young woman listed her requirements with a computer dating service. She wanted someone who liked people, wasn't too tall, preferred formal attire and enjoyed water sports. The computer followed her wishes exactly; it sent her a penguin.

Bradley K. Carlson
Billings, Montana

A waiter suddenly became ill and was rushed to the hospital emergency room. While he was lying on the operating table in great pain, he saw an intern walking by and pleaded, *"Doctor, you have to help me."*
"Sorry," replied the intern, *"this isn't my table."*

Mark Mara
Clear Lake, Wisconsin

Charlie, the Greenhand



"I've decided to try some long distance running...!"

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